

*Hafa Adai!*

**AAUW awards \$12K career grant to Demapan. **PAGE 6****

**One week left to apply for disaster unemployment aid. **PAGE 9****

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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**75¢**

## NMC readies to resume AM classes

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**W**ith the end of the fall semester afternoon and evening classes in sight, the Northern Marianas College is preparing for the resumption of its morning classes at its As Terlaje campus starting Feb. 20, 2019.

## Pladevega is 2019 State Counselor

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A counselor from the Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School was named yesterday as the 2019 CNMI State Counselor.

Jillian Pladevega, a Hopwood counselor for six years now, was declared the state Counselor of the Year awardee in a ceremony at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

"It's a blessing," Pladevega said in

an interview. "I wouldn't be able to stay in this position without the help and support of my counseling team and [the Hopwood] administration."

Pladevega, who graduated from the Northern Marianas College in 2009 and started out her career in the PSS Head Start program, is also the department chair of the counseling department at Hopwood, which has four counselors.

"It takes more than just me. [Coun-

**See PLADEVEGA on Page 4**

NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico said yesterday that NMC would be resuming its delayed morning classes for the fall semester at

the 24 temporary classrooms that have been built at NMC's As Terlaje campus.

Meanwhile, registration for the

2019 spring semester will start on Feb. 19, 2019.

"This news was communicated to

**See NMC on Page 4**



The 19 temporary classrooms are completed at the southern area of the Northern Marianas College's As Terlaje campus in preparation for the return of their students on Feb. 20, 2019.

ERWIN ENCINARES

## Inmate's suit vs DOC dismissed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Ruling that the Department of Corrections lacks the capacity to sue or

be sued, the federal court has dismissed the department as a party in a lawsuit filed by an inmate.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona

ordered that the CNMI government be substituted in DOC's place as one of the defendants named in the lawsuit filed by inmate Jesse James Ba-

**See INMATE on Page 4**

## FEMA transitions into permanent home construction

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is transitioning into its permanent housing program following the closing of the Temporary Emergency Tent and

### RELATED NEWS

► **Torres: Accept FEMA housing assistance.**  
**PAGE 11**

Roofing Installation Support program last Wednesday.

According to FEMA federal coordinating officer Bern Ruiz, FEMA has been in communication with its Region 9 headquarters to discuss the details about the permanent housing

**See FEMA on Page 4**



ERWIN ENCINARES

## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

President Donald Trump has tapped David Malpass to lead the World Bank.

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### ASIA

Thailand insists it cannot free a detained soccer player who has refugee status in Australia.

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### WORLD

Iran appears to have attempted a second satellite launch despite U.S. criticism.

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# Local

## Customs to introduce new forms

The CNMI Division of Customs is looking to introduce new customs declaration forms—one that is smaller and with fewer questions.

NMI Customs chief Jose Mafnas said they are working with the Marianas Visitors Authority to change the forms.

The forms are being printed by MVA, according to deputy managing director Judy Torres, of which they also keep an inventory at their office in San Jose.

"We plan to make it smaller and we will also be working with the [CNMI Office of the Attorney General] to check the language and the laws that are cited [in the forms]," said Mafnas.

Mafnas said the new forms would be smaller and easier for residents and visitors to fill it out. It has been observed that some people were having a hard

time answering all the questions in the old customs forms.

"We will consult MVA to see if they can lessen or remove some of the questions. We can make it small and concise," said Mafnas.

"We're trying to do it [introduce the forms] this year. MVA will give us the time for them to get whatever they have on stock and have them printed."

Customs will give the airlines their copies of the new forms once everything is finalized, with the AG clearing the language and once the MVA finishes printing them.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres advised Customs, MVA, and the OAG to work together in accomplishing the project so the new forms could be used soon. *(Jon Perez)*

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# Anti-water overcharging bill introduced

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) has introduced Senate Bill 21-14 to make sure that residences and businesses in the CNMI won't be overcharged for water use after Super Typhoon Yutu.

Yutu's over 170-mph winds destroyed the power and water infrastructures of the islands, with water pumps also suffering significant damage that caused leaks in water lines.

Yutu hit Saipan and Tinian on Oct. 24 and in the early morning of Oct. 25.

On Oct. 31, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres declared a state of significant emergency for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Soon after Yutu, CUC could not provide the needed power, water, and wastewater services to the CNMI.

S.B. 21-14 states that water leaks were reported by residents and businesses immediately after CUC finished restoring water supply and distribution. The leaks

further delayed the 24-hour distribution of water.

"The purpose of [S.B. 20-14] is to assist residential and business customers struggling to restore normalcy in their lives by ensuring the CUC does not charge consumers an excessive amount of water usage due to water leaks and to maintain the charges of water usage consumed during the month of October to December [2018]," as stated in Section 1. "However, if CUC is unable to resolve the water leaks reported as a result

of the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu, water usage rates charged for the month of September 2018 shall continue based on the assessment conducted by CUC."

S.B. 21-14 would require CUC to charge their water consumers for October to November 2018 the same amount they previously charged for average water use from July to September 2018.

"In the event CUC is unable to resolve all reported water leaks by December

2018 that occurred as a result of the aftermath of Yutu, the water usage charges shall remain the same as the average water usage [from July to September 2018] or whichever is less for the particular month until such time that water leaks are resolved," as stated in Section 2 101 (b).

Unmetered and flat rate consumers shall be billed the same flat rate amount, provided that the charges are prorated for "any respective month that the water service was not provided for the entire month."

CUC, after all the leaks that disrupted the water supply and services have been addressed, will then issue a notice to inform its customers that they will implement charges for actual water usage in the next month.

Once S.B. 21-14 is signed into law, after CUC resolves all water leaks, customers that paid more than the average amount for [July to September 2018] water usage from [October to December 2018] "shall be given credit for the excess payment in their respective account for metered consumers."



Igisomar

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# MCS Band set for Tumon Bay Music Festival

Mount Carmel School's Band, led by music teacher Julian Greening, is all set to attend and compete in the Tumon Bay Music Festival that will be held in Guam from Feb. 28 to March 9.

This will be Guam's 14th annual Tumon Bay Band Music Festival, founded by Maximo Ronquillo Jr., the eighth music director of the Guam

Territorial Band.

Roquillo has collaborated with MCS many times before, with musicals like *Anastasia*, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, and *White Christmas*, but this will be the first time the school will be performing and competing at the festival founded by Ronquillo.

Many parents of band members are excited about the up-

coming trip.

"I love it that my son, Toby, participates in band," said parent and teacher Filmah Buenaflor. "I see that he loves what he's learning. I've also read that students who participate in a band are more likely to have higher reading, reading comprehension, and math scores."

Larissa Steele, parent of

Lyssa Steele, sees her daughter improving in her instrument and loves watching her perform on stage.

Greening's purpose for establishing the band program at Mount Carmel school was to inspire young students develop their musical skills and gain more passionate experiences in the art of music. By introducing the music pro-

gram, Greening believes in the insightful lessons and influential experiences students learn from music.

Practices include music lessons and preparation for upcoming school and islandwide performances. Aside from the music festival, the band is preparing for the Spring Band Concert that will be held in May. From these practices, Greening hopes that they will be well-prepared in performing in front of a crowd, especially off-island. He believes that this traveling experience to compete and perform will get them more exposed and committed to the art of music.

Greening hopes to give the

students an exciting experience that incorporates learning the skills to develop as talented musicians. "I believe that bringing students to Guam for this music festival will be a great way to interact with musicians [in] Guam. It will also be a great opportunity for the students to play in front of a big crowd away from home."

While the band has secured some federal funding for the trip, the band is open to donations. Any donations made will be used for band activities and performances. For additional information, email Greening at julian.greening86@gmail.com. **(Quincy Chinen, Reica Ramirez)**

## NMC

From Page 1

students last week," he said.

He noted that hybrid classes—classes that are taken both on- and off-campus—are scheduled to start as early as Feb. 11, 2019 up to March 27, 2019. Both the morning classes and the hybrid classes share the same grade due date of March 27, 2019.

As of yesterday, the 24 temporary classrooms—19 buildings in the southern area of the campus and five in the northern portion—have been completed and are now fully functional.

"This will be the first time that our students will come back to take classes here since Super Typhoon Yutu, said Eliptico. "It is going to be great, welcoming back

our students...to the As Terlaje campus."

According to Eliptico, NMC students in the afternoon and evening classes have been taking their classes at the Saipan Southern High School campus; the high school students have their classes in the morning.

In order to accommodate more NMC classes, Eliptico noted that its V building in As Terlaje was recommissioned and now houses several possible classrooms such as a space for education majors to plan activities and study as well as two computer classrooms with about a hundred new virtual computer systems.

In the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu, 22 of NMC's 27 buildings on campus sustained severe damage. The T building in the northern area of the campus, according to

Eliptico, was damaged beyond repair and needed to be demolished immediately. Of the 37 available classrooms prior to the typhoon, only two were able to survive.

Included in preparations for the influx of students on Feb. 20, 2019, are about 700 tables designed to allow for better maneuverability when it comes to group projects.

### Making up for lost time

Eliptico clarified that even though the morning classes for the fall 2018 semester have been delayed, accreditation would not be affected since both the morning and hybrid classes would be implementing increased "contact hours."

Contact hours refer to the time that college instructors meet their students.

"It is really important that

NMC maintains the minimum contact hours," he said. "Now that we are shortening the semester, we have to increase the length of the classes."

In simpler terms, the morning and hybrid classes would be extended beyond the regular scheduled hours. With the increased time of instruction, Eliptico said that he made sure program leaders, academic advisors, instructors, counselors, and tutors are standing by.

For more information, students are advised to call the NMC hotline at 285-7651 or 285-2089 for assistance.

"We are deeply appreciative of the help and assistance the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other agencies that are providing to help us resume our classes at the NMC As Terlaje site," Eliptico said.

## PLADEVEGA

From Page 1

seling] takes a lot out of you and, just like teachers, we need a lot of help. If you have a very supportive administration... even though we are not in the same building, they are still a support system," she said, referring to Hopwood principal Rizalina Liwag, PSS associate commissioner for Student and Support Services Boni R. Pangelinan, and her three counseling colleagues at Hopwood.

Part of being a counselor, according to Pladevega, in-

cludes the varying scenarios a day's work can bring.

"Each day is very different in the counseling life," she said. "You have to be ready for whatever hits you."

"Sometimes I can be with a student for hours and sometimes I can be with multiple students for under an hour." Patience is key. "Making sure that [students] feel that they can come up to you is very important," she said.

Pangelinan describes Pladevega as "energetic and always into new ideas and learning."

"She is one of the counselors who is really on board with

trying new things and becoming better at what she does," she said. "We are very pleased and happy that she has been given this recognition."

Pangelinan noted that it can be difficult to be a counselor at the middle school level since it is usually the gap between being children and being an adolescent.

"There are so many changes physically and emotionally [during this stage], so it really takes a lot of heart to be a school counselor at this level," Pangelinan said.

Education Commissioner Glenn Muña noted in a sepa-

rate interview that, while he had been in contact with Pladevega only in a professional setting, based on their two- to three-year working relationship, he believes she is very approachable.

"She is always very bubbly, always very understanding," said Muña. "Even though I don't know her much [outside of the professional setting], it's like we've known each other forever—that's how easy it is to get along with her," he said.

"She really cares for the students that she serves and is very passionate about her job."

## FEMA

From Page 1

program that will be implemented in the CNMI.

"We're in the process of determining with our headquarters what that home would be, how much it would cost, what we will need in terms of resources for labor and materials to bring here, so once we get to that point where we know how many homes exactly that we're going to build per household we will be prepared for it," he said.

As they wait for word from headquarters about the program, FEMA will be screening applicants who are eligible

for permanent housing repairs based on the damage sustained by their homes, Ruiz said.

"Based on the last count before we closed [the] Disaster Loan Operation Center, we had about 9,400 so we're calling out to those applicants to determine their eligibility for permanent home construction," he said.

Aside from resources like building materials, Ruiz said that FEMA intends to fly in volunteers but this is still in discussion.

"We're going to bring in some volunteers like the Mennonites, the Catholic Charities. ... We did that after [Typhoon] Soudelor [in 2015] and we're going to do that again. We fully

understand the challenges that the CNMI is faced with in terms of where it is in the Pacific [but] we will be here for as long as it takes to bring the CNMI back to where it was before Mangkhut and Yutu but it's a lot of work and it's going to take time," he said.

Ruiz wants to assure the CNMI community that the TETRIS program was only the beginning.

"We got roofs, we got people into a dry area, to the tents. I know it's not the ideal way of living. [but] emergency management is best when locals execute the plans to respond and recover and the CNMI government is there to manage all that and FEMA comes

in with support and resources. We're big and slow, but we'll get there and we will stay as long as we need to be," he said.

According to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Clyde Norita, the Koblerville fire station will now serve as FEMA's permanent housing program facility.

"We've shut this down as a Fire Station since the typhoon. The assets have all been moved down to Susupe. This whole base will be turned into that [FEMA] facility. From here they will collect their needed supplies, materials, and head out and start to either rebuild the houses or build permanent houses," he said.

## INMATE

From Page 1

bauta Camacho.

However, Manglona also dismissed the complaint against the CNMI government and all DOC officials and officer that Camacho sued, saying they cannot be sued for damages under Section 1983.

Section 1983 is the statute that creates a remedy for violations of federal rights committed by persons acting under color of state law.

Camacho sued in their official capacity DOC director of Civil Division Georgia Cabrera, the late lieutenant Frances Rebuénog, and corrections officers Lorraine Rios and Benjamin Lizama.

Manglona also dismissed with prejudice Camacho's complaint against the defendants he sued in their personal capacity as to the events that occurred prior to and on Sept. 1, 2017.

Dismissal with prejudice means the inmate can no longer re-file the claims.

The judge ruled that Camacho failed to state a plausible claim that these defendants were deliberately indifferent to his medical needs before the doctor diagnosed his heart attack on Sept. 1, 2017.

Manglona said because Camacho's allegations against Rios, Rebuénog, Lizama, and Sgt. Frederick Billy relate to events occurring before his diagnosis, they are dismissed from the case.

Manglona dismissed without prejudice Camacho's complaint against all remaining personal capacity defendants as it pertains to the events that occurred after the doctor diagnosed his heart attack.

Dismissal without prejudice means Camacho can re-file the claims.

The remaining personal capacity defendants refer to DOC Commissioner Vincent Attao, Capt. Jose Pangelinan,

Capt. Pius Yaroitemal, Lt. Manuel Quitano, and corrections officers Cynthia Santos and Nina Aldan.

Manglona allowed Camacho to amend his complaint, limited to adding more facts to support his claims against the remaining personal capacity defendants for deliberate indifference to his medical condition after Sept. 1, 2017.

Manglona said if Camacho fails to file an amended complaint by the March 1 deadline, the case will be dismissed with prejudice, meaning he can no longer re-file it.

Camacho filed his handwritten complaint without a lawyer. He has claimed that he is now a disabled person after he underwent heart surgery in November 2017. He blamed a DOC official and a DOC officer for allegedly causing the delay in his medical treatment.

In his amended complaint, Camacho said Attao ignored him and the countless requests he made in 2017 and in 2018 to meet him in person due to urgent and important issues that the officers have done to him.

Camacho said Cabrera interfered with his off-island medical treatment in 2017 by telling a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center that he can't be taken to the Philippines for medical treatment.

Camacho accused the other DOC officials and officers of ignoring his requests for medical assistance, among other issues.

In her prior order, Manglona found a non-frivolous claim for a violation of the Eight Amendment's guarantee of medical care.

Camacho was tagged as the mastermind in the killing of a 13-year-old boy in Dandan in April 1988. He was sentenced in 1999 to 45 years in prison.

Camacho's co-defendants, both minors at the time, entered a plea deal with the government and were sentenced to two years each.



## DFEMS gives thanks to DOD

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services has awarded a latte plaque of appreciation to the U.S. Department of Defense for their contribution to the CNMI's Super Typhoon Yutu recovery.

According to DFEMS Commissioner Clyde Norita, it is their way of telling the DOD how much they appreciated the soldiers' tremendous work and what better way to do that than by offering them a signature latte plaque.

"It's an appreciation plaque from the [Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services] to Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield. We wanted to tell her how much we appreciated DOD and her leadership really. DOD has been a presence here since the beginning of the typhoon and their resources and manpower that were available to us all during the time for recovery was tremendous," he said.

Norita said that it was through Chatfield, who is Joint Region Marianas commander, that one of the most vital resources in the CNMI's recovery was made available, the DOD.

"Right after the typhoon when she was here, she stayed on the ground for four weeks here on Saipan. She was committed to making sure that whatever DOD resources we requested for, she was able to reach out to her chain and make sure that it happened. You've seen the response from the military. From the National Guard, to reserves, to active duty from all over the Western Pacific and we're very appreciative of that. It was a resource that the CNMI alone could never gain but they became our partners in this recovery operations," he said.

Last Wednesday, servicemen under the DOD said their goodbyes following the completion of their mission in the CNMI.

In the last four months following the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu, Joint Region Marianas provided a rotation of servicemen from the U.S. Naval forces, the National Guard, the Army Reserves, the U.S. Air Force, and more.

The servicemen provided drinkable water, delivered supplies and resources to members of the community, cleared typhoon debris, installed temporary shelters, and even built temporary roofs.

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# AAUW awards \$12K career grant to Demapan

Daisy Demapan at the Office of the Governor's press secretary's office, has been selected to receive a Career Development Grant of \$12,000 from the American Association of University Women for the 2018-2019 fellowship and grant year.

That makes Demapan one of 245 awardees for the 2018-19 award year. This group of recipients will pursue academic work and lead innovative community projects to empower women and girls.

The 2018-19 award year kicked off on July 1, 2018.

The award funding totals \$3.8 million.

AAUW is a non-profit organization that advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

AAUW board chair Julia T. Brown Esquire congratulated Demapan for joining the ranks of more than 12,000 women who have already received AAUW fellowships and grants.

"Much of my life has been centered around healing. I come from a family of educators and health professionals

and my great-grandmother was a traditional healer. Although I did not start out my career in healthcare, I have always been involved in some capacity whether it was through social work or advocacy. There are many unmet needs in my community, especially in terms of mental healthcare in our indigenous population. I sincerely thank AAUW for the opportunity and allowing for graduate study through a program that offers flexibility and innovation to meet my goal of becoming a licensed clinical

psychologist in the future. As a woman, I am also encouraged to pursue my passion to level the playing field which often neglects the needs of women, girls and especially indigenous minorities. I encourage current college graduates in the Marianas to seek higher learning and take advantage of the opportunities provided by the AAUW," Demapan said.

Founded in 1881, AAUW is one of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women. These awards are highly competitive and selective. (PR)

## Dynasty ex-workers asked how much they are seeking

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ordered the former foreign workers of the defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino to provide the court with the exact amount of damages they are seeking against the owner and management of the Dynasty.

The former workers' motion for a default judgment against Dynasty owner Hong Kong (Overseas) Investment Ltd. and its management, Mega Stars Overseas Limited, has been set for Feb. 14 at 1:30pm.

In advance of the hearing, Manglona ordered the former workers to file by today, Friday, a statement of the exact amount of damages each one is seeking.

The judge also required the plaintiffs to submit witness and exhibit lists.

Eric F. Dona and co-plaintiffs, through counsel Samuel Mok, recently asked the court to enter a default judgment

against HKE and Mega Stars.

Mok is counsel for Dona and six other co-plaintiffs.

There are 15 named plaintiffs in this case.

Last August, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood adopted Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy's recommendation to direct the clerk to enter a default judgment against HKE and Mega Stars.

In their lawsuit, Dona and co-plaintiffs alleged that HKE and Mega Stars lied to them about their immigration status.

Mok alleged that the owners and management of Tinian Dynasty lied that the workers were legally authorized to work despite the denial of their CW-1 petitions.

In February 2018, Chun Wai Chan, a corporate representative of both HKE and Mega Stars, informed the court that Tinian Dynasty's casino operation stopped in August 2015, and when the hotel operation halted in March 2016 no more income could be generated since then.



Mok

## Sword says he is tired of similar excuse for water meter problem



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. chair Miranda V. Manglona presides over a board meeting yesterday at the CUC conference room.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

KKMP Radio Station vice president Gerhard "Gary" Sword told the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors yesterday that he is tired of following up with CUC about the meter problem in their family compound in Papago.

During the CUC board meet-

ing's public comments, Sword, who was accompanied by his wife, former chief prosecutor Rosemond Santos, said that his wife's family has been pumping water into a tank at the bottom of the hill in Papago—a family compound with eight houses—because of lack of water pressure and re-pumping it to the top of the hill.

Sword said they pay a flat

monthly rate.

In 2012, a meter was installed to supply water to the eight houses. Sword said they applied for seven water meters for each house, but there has been no result. CUC would just tell them "they are still waiting for engineering."

In June 2012, Sword said, they applied for meter relocation when their bill went to \$800 a month.

He said they were given the same answer by CUC that "they are still waiting for engineering."

After Super Typhoon Yutu, their water bill went up to \$5,000 due to ruptured pipes.

"If CUC had done their job in the first place you won't hear from us," Sword told the board. "You have a social obligation."

Sword said he used to work for 14 years at a utilities agency in American Samoa.

"I know what I'm talking about," he said.

He recommended that policy and standard operating procedures need to be developed to help customers with their water issues and assure that people conserve water.

He said CUC's Customer Service representative should be given more authority to elevate the customer issues to upper management to assure that problems are resolved.

CUC board chair Miranda V. Manglona assured Sword that they will look into the problem and "avoid this unnecessary issue."



# GRAND VRIO RESORT

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|---|---|---|---|---|
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**Brunch: 11:00am-2:00pm | Dinner Buffet: 6:00pm-9:00pm | Adult: 12 yrs and up | Child: 6-11 yrs | Infant: 5 yrs and under**



**Valentine's Candle-light Dinner: \$98/2pax**  
1 Bottle of Woodbridge Wine

Opening: Everyday Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm | Last Order: 1:30pm  
Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm | Last Order: 8:30pm



Dinner Buffet: 5:30pm-9pm

Menu: "All you can eat & drink"  
Beers, red & white wine, champagne, soft drinks, oolong tea and juices.  
Reg. \$43 / Child \$21 (Local \$32 / Child \$16)



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# SCS: Growing with the times

By **BEA CABRERA**  
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Leadership in the retail of technology-related products such as smart appliances, gadgets, and accessories as well as deftly managing employees is a balancing trick that Jerry P.

Tiu has learned to master.

As Business Development director of Saipan Computer Services Inc., his 25 years in the business has given him his unique foresight.

"I came to Saipan in 1991... my father said go to Saipan and I did but, at that time I

was a consultant for Sony Philippines and another computer school. Then I worked as a systems administrator for a golf course," he said.

"At the same time, the family Tiu started a computer shop and somewhere along the way, the year was 1994, our computer company was offered to take over SCS that was established in 1986 and everything moved forward from there."

In an industry that is restlessly dynamic, Tiu believes that growing with the times is what makes SCS successful.

"We are not afraid of change. ...We change, we



**Tiu**

grow as technology changes and grows, especially the last 15 years. ...Growth is something that the computer industry and technology will require of you...we train for it as we get our people ready because it is a non-stop learning process. ...We invest in people to undergo trainings and get an upgrade—sometimes online [or] sometimes they have to go elsewhere."

Tiu said the Saipan market had a lot of potential in the mid-'90s—selling technology-related products at a time where most countries haven't caught up yet.

"What I remember is that

Saipan, despite its [small] size and being remote, was not lagging behind on technology know-how. It was catching up with the latest technology."

"Despite [its] fewer resources compared to being in a big city, there were people [here] who were pushing to get those things done like Saipan Datacom. ...Many people were informed about current technology," he added.

According to Tiu, SCS didn't run without challenges. "Immigration is one, as the upcoming new CW-1 regulations aren't out yet. We are often asked, 'What is your plan?' I say it is hard to answer that because, without any clarity, it is hard to plan ahead. ...We are exploring avenues. ...Currently though, our number of U.S. workers exceed the minimum requirement," he said.

"In terms of supply and

demand, I think logistics has always been a problem on Saipan. We have to take into consideration the distance between us and other islands. ... We are dependent on either air or sea so when a typhoon hits us, we are automatically cut off. ...Of course it takes a lot more planning and we have learned to deal with it to make sure that our customers get what they need," he added.

SCS recently concluded its yearly Customer Appreciation Raffle and Tiu said that this is their way of thanking customers for their continued patronage.

"Of course, we want to grow the business but the business is always dependent on the market size. In the meantime, we don't want to be or stay as good as our last sale. ...We are doing our best to be up-to-date," he said.

## Guam firm fined \$16K in worker's death

**HAGATNA, Guam**—The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Benson Guam Enterprises Inc. in Hagatna for exposing employees to struck-by hazards after an employee suffered fatal injuries when several doors fell on him as he unloaded a shipping container.

OSHA cited the company for failing to secure stored materials to prevent accidental movement or shifting, provide a place of employment free from recognized hazards, and conduct performance evaluations of powered industrial truck operators at least once

every three years. The company faces \$16,575 in penalties.

"This company's failure to comply with materials handling and storage requirements led to this preventable tragedy," said OSHA Honolulu Area office director Roger Forstner. "Following safety procedures is essential for protecting employees' safety." (PR)

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# Fall 2018 & Spring 2019

Updated February 4, 2019

## CALENDAR

### Fall 2018 (Online, Hybrid)

*Accelerated (Additional minutes added to each course session)*

| Dates (Mon-Sat)        | Adjusted Schedule                    |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Feb. 11 - 16, 2019     | Week One - First Week of Instruction |
| Feb. 18, 2019          | Holiday - President's Day            |
| Feb. 19 - Mar. 9, 2019 | Weeks Two to Four                    |
| Mar. 11 - 16, 2019     | Week Five - Last Week of Instruction |
| Mar. 18 - 23, 2019     | Final Exam Week                      |
| Mar. 25, 2019          | Holiday - Commonwealth Covenant Day  |
| Mar. 26 - 27, 2019     | Grades Due                           |

### Fall 2018 (Morning, or "AM")

*Accelerated (Additional minutes added to each course session)*

| Dates (Mon-Sat)        | Adjusted Schedule                    |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Feb. 20 - 23, 2019     | Week One - First Week of Instruction |
| Feb. 25 - Mar. 9, 2019 | Weeks Two to Three                   |
| Mar. 11 - 16, 2019     | Week Four - Last Week of Instruction |
| Mar. 18 - 23, 2019     | Final Exam Week                      |
| Mar. 25, 2019          | Holiday - Commonwealth Covenant Day  |
| Mar. 26 - 27, 2019     | Grades Due                           |

### Spring 2019

*Accelerated (Additional minutes added to each course session)*

| Dates                   | Adjusted Schedule   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Feb. 11 - 16, 2019      | Early Academic Advising / Priority Registration for Spring 2019 Anticipated Graduates |
| Feb. 19 - Mar. 23, 2019 | Registration for All Students   |
| Mar. 28 - 30, 2019      | Late Advising & Registration  |
| Apr. 01 - 06, 2019      | Week One - First Week of Instruction  |
| Apr. 08 - 20, 2019      | Weeks Two and Three   |
| Apr. 18 - 20, 2019      | Spring Break  |
| Apr. 22 - June 08, 2019 | Weeks Four to Ten   |
| May 27, 2019            | Holiday - Memorial Day  |
| June 10 - 15, 2019      | Week Eleven - Last Week of Instruction  |
| June 17 - 22, 2019      | Final Exam Week   |
| June 24, 2019           | Grades Due for Graduating Students  |
| June 25 - 26, 2019      | Grades Due for All Students   |
| June 29, 2019           | NMC Commencement Ceremony   |

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Academic Calendars and Course Schedules are subject to change, depending on availability of space and other factors. Every possible effort will be made to ensure communication of information to all students and other stakeholders.

**Franco Santos**  
- Saipan Laolao Bay Golf and Resort Local Market Developer  
- NMC Business Major



# Saipan students push against marine debris

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance held an orientation workshop for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual "Schools for Environmental Conservation" program with several of Saipan's public and private middle school students on Feb. 2, 2019.

Funded through the Department of the Interior, SFEC was designed by MINA for the active engagement of students in educational and field activities while focusing on a specific environmental issue.

Through the SFEC program, teachers and students develop a Conservation Action Plan wherein they design a project, develop strategies and measures, implement those strategies, then use those results to adapt and improve on future projects.

Participating schools in this

year's program are Mount Carmel School, Dandan Middle School, Hopwood Middle School, and Tanapag Middle School, totaling 10 teachers and 36 students.

Coming on the heels of topics such as marine protected areas, climate change, watersheds, and coral reefs, this year's theme is "Learning About and Actively Addressing Marine Debris in the CNMI."

The subject of marine debris calls for more attention, as waste from other countries washes up on local beaches.

"Marine debris is not just a local problem. It is a global problem and it is an everyday problem," said Mallory Muna of the Division of Coastal Resources Management under the Bureau of Environmental



Joan Bahillo and her students from Hopwood Middle School pose after tagging a storm drain.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

and Coastal Quality, one of the presenters at the orientation workshop.

Her colleague, Colleen Flores, reported that in last year's International Coastal

Cleanup, the CNMI had "over 700 local volunteers [who] removed over 5,500 lbs of trash from numerous locations across Saipan, Tinian, and Rota."

With this year's theme addressing marine debris, the students had a storm drain tagging activity for the afternoon portion of the workshop.

The students applied stickers above the storm drains along Coral Tree Avenue, the road between Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and Paseo de Marianas, with markers in English, Chinese, and Korean languages, which say "Do Not Dump...Drains to Ocean."

As a follow-up to the students' efforts, MINA's Tasi Watch Community Rangers are currently partnering up with BECQ to complete the installation of additional markers for the rest of the storm drains in Garapan.

Muña encouraged all the workshop participants to do their part: "We hope to help increase public awareness that what enters the storm drains, enters the ocean. As individuals, we can all help by reducing single-use disposable containers, skipping the straw, using reusable bags, minimizing chemical use, planting trees, and or volunteering."

Jolly Ann Cruz, SFEC program manager, echoed that: "With MINA's mission of 'Empowering Communities for Conservation,' we continue to address the issue of marine debris prevention through outreach in the schools, at community events and through the Adopt-A-Bin program where businesses sponsor recycling bins at popular beach sites."

MINA would like to thank



Participants of the 5th Annual Schools for Environmental Conservation program tagged a total of 18 storm drains along Coral Tree Ave in Garapan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BECQ's Julius Reyes is with Marseli Frank's students from Tanapag Middle School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the Department of Public Works for their collaboration on this project, whose crew ensured that the storm drains were cleaned out and safe for the students' hands-on activity. MINA also thanks Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Tasi Tours and Transportation, and the presenters at the workshop: Mallory Muña and Colleen Flores (DCRM), Michelle Kautz (MINA), David Benavente (DCRM), Sowm Kaipat (MINA), Julius Reyes (DCRM), Jihan Younis (DCRM), Rodney Camacho (DCRM), and Brooke Nevitt,

former executive director of MINA and volunteer, who, together with Elizabeth Furey, was one of the originators of the SFEC program.

Cruz concluded the workshop by sharing something that the Dalai Lama once said, "If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito."

To learn more about MINA's Schools for Environmental Conservation program, visit MINA's Facebook page, email MINA at [minaoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:minaoutreach@gmail.com), or call us at 233-7333 (REEF). (PR)



School team from Dandan Middle School with their team advisor Judith Castro and MINA's Becky Furey.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Mount Carmel School's team of students and teachers pose with Tasi Watch Community Ranger Sowm Kaipat.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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# Valentine's Day

Every time I see you,  
I feel flames  
in my heart,  
that lights up,  
because  
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Valentine's Shop Hours: Monday to Saturday 8:30am - 6:00pm  
SUNDAY 8:30am - 1:00pm  
**Tel. No.: 235-2276/7372 • Fax: 670-235-7271**



**DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE****One week left to apply**

Workers and the self-employed whose jobs were impacted by Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu have until Feb. 14 to apply for Disaster Unemployment Assistance.

A worker is required to file for regular unemployment, but, if they are not eligible, they may be considered for DUA.

DUA may assist self-employed individuals as well as those with conventional jobs on a case-by-case basis.

If a worker is no longer employed as a direct result of the typhoons, including individuals that were scheduled to start employment and were unable to begin employment as result of the typhoons, these individuals may be eligible for DUA.

Eligible applicants may apply for DUA either in person, by mail, or by phone until Feb. 14, 2019 at the following location(s):

■ Saipan: Bldg. 1334, Ascension Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

■ Tinian: Edu's Plaza, first floor, San Jose Village, Tinian, MP 96952

■ Rota: Mayor's Office, Tatachog, Rota, MP 96951

Applicants should bring a picture I.D., social security number, information of employment such as pay stubs or other verification of employ-

ment; and a letter from the employer verifying lost time due to the typhoons.

Self-employed individuals should bring receipts that show their primary source of income and tax receipts as well.

Individuals unable to work due to an injury suffered from the typhoons should bring a doctor's statement.

Those who are applying by phone should have their social security number available, along with the name and address of their last employer or forthcoming employer or basic information regarding their business, if self-employed.

Phone applications can be made by calling any of the following numbers Monday through Friday between 9 am through 3 pm:

■ Saipan: 670-788-4180, 670-788-4183, 670-788-4768, 670-788-4769, 670-664-3190, 670-322-0996

■ Tinian: 670-287-0411, 670-783-2005

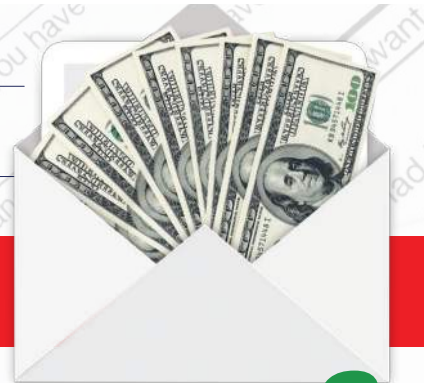
■ Rota: 670-532-9479

The Federal Emergency Management Agency urges everyone who is unemployed due to Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu to apply.

DUA is funded by FEMA and administered by the CNMI Department of Labor through the U.S. Department of Labor. (PR)



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**QUICK CASH APPLICATION****Primary Applicant**

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Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Secondary Applicant**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: 670-235-6032 | Fax: 670-235-6040**



## TOYOTA DREAM CAR ART CONTEST

**Draw your dream, Drive the future.**

Toyota Dream Car Art Contest invites children from all corners of the globe to share ideas about the future of mobility by drawing their dream cars.

**ENTRY PERIOD**

Deadline February 16, 2019

**CONTEST THEME**

Your Dream Car

**AGE CATEGORIES**

Under 8 years old

8 - 11 years old

12 - 15 years old

**THE WORLD CONTEST**

• Award: Gold, Silver, Bronze, Finalist, Special award.

• Prize: Gold, Silver, Bronze, Special award winners\*

- Invitation to the award ceremony trip to Japan in August 2019.

**INQUIRIES**

Atkins Kroll

Administration Office of Toyota Dream Car Art Contest

Phone number: (671) 649-6410

E-mail address: [athena.ramos@akguam.com](mailto:athena.ramos@akguam.com)



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Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you: \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Time To Call Best Number To Call

**Secondary Applicant**

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# Division unveils casual 'Hafa Adai' shirts

By JON PEREZ

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI Division of Customs has unveiled a new set

of uniforms that show off the islands' "Hafa Adai" spirit, being one of the first agencies that visitors come across to after disembarking from a long flight.

Customs director Jose Mafnas said they went through several designs before finally agreeing on the final outcome that they call the Hafa Adai-

Tirow uniforms, which they presented to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios last Wednesday.

"We wanted to showcase

something that represents our islands. We've gone back and forth on the best design that would showcase the CNMI, especially our culture, so we finally came to this product—we have the latte house and stone, coconut trees, the *proa*, and the flame tree with flowers—to showcase our culture and customs, especially the Chamorro and Carolinian, the indigenous people of our islands," Mafnas said. "This will show our Hafa Adai spirit."

He said Customs personnel at the airport will be wearing the shirts every Friday, beginning with those who are on duty on Thursday midnight.

Other Customs office personnel and staff, like those in the administration department, would wear the new uniforms daily.

Customs officers on duty will still wear the enforcement uniforms except every Friday.

Mafnas said this is an improvement compared to their previous island-style uniforms. "We were mistaken back then as tour guides or people would ask us if we are taxicab [drivers], bus drivers, or hotel staff. That's why, we deviated from that and went with our enforcement uniforms after that."

He said they are still looking at another design for their uniforms. "This time, it will represent the flowers, trees,

and birds in the CNMI."

Mafnas warned that they would remain vigilant in keeping illegal things from entering the CNMI. "Just a reminder to drug dealers and other people who would bring in contraband—even with us wearing these uniforms, we can still arrest you with a smile. You are going to get caught."

Torres said Customs play an important role in the CNMI. "Not only are you in the front-line welcoming our guests to our islands, but you make sure commodities enter legally and prevent contrabands from getting in. And we're seeing the results; you guys play a vital role. Every shipment, cargo, and passenger has the potential of bringing something that will harm not only our environment but also our people."

"Yours is an important job. My administration and the Attorney General will continue to work with you guys. Your work is important and rest assured that we are here to help you. You are taking care of the people."


Palacios added, "You are at the forefront of our ports. When our visitors arrive, you are the first people aside from immigration that they meet. It is important for our visitors and returning residents to see a little bit of difference, seeing the *Hafa Adai* spirit."

*Hafa Adai* is the Chamorro term for "welcome."




CNMI Division of Customs personnel show off their new "Hafa Adai" uniforms for casual Fridays after yesterday's presentation at the Office of the Governor.

KEVIN CALIBO



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



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### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### CUC-RFP-19-008

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#### SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR LIGHT VEHICLES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the supply of fuel for light vehicles and heavy equipment for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

**One (1) original and four (4) hard copies**, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "*CUC-RFP-19-008 -Supply of Fuel for Light Vehicles and Heavy Equipment*" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 4, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.


All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 15, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contract Specialist via email address [john.mafnas@cucgov.org](mailto:john.mafnas@cucgov.org) and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior via email address [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY P. CAMACHO**  
Executive Director

**MANNY B. SABLAN**  
Purchasing Administrator



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Office of the Secretary of Public Works  
**ENERGY DIVISION**  
P.O. Box 500340, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4480 / Fax No. (670) 664-4483 / e-mail: [cnmienergy@gmail.com](mailto:cnmienergy@gmail.com)



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### PUBLIC HEARING

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Governor in cooperation with the Department of Public Works/Energy Division Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) will be conducting a public hearing to present the proposed WAP State Plan for Program Year 2019 and is inviting the General Public to attend this important Public Hearing.

The public hearing will be held at the Energy Division office located on Capitol Hill, House No. 1337 on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. Individuals who are unable to attend the public hearing in person may submit written comments to the Energy Division, Capitol Hill, House No. 1337, Saipan or by e-mail to [cnmienergy@gmail.com](mailto:cnmienergy@gmail.com) or by mail to P.O. Box 500340, Saipan, MP 96950 on or before close of business on Friday, March 15, 2019.

Copies of the Draft State Plan will be made available at the Energy Division, Capitol Hill, House No. 1337 beginning Thursday, February 07, 2019.

For more information, you may contact Thelma B. Inos, Energy Director, at 664-4480/81 or you may visit the Energy Division Office on Capitol Hill, Monday to Friday, except holidays, and from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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### HINEKKUNGUK PUPBLIKU

I Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha gi Ufisinan Gubietnu yan i ko'operasion i Dipattamentun Che'chu' Pupbliku/Dibision Energy gi Programan Asistensian Weatherization (WAP) para u makundudukta hinekkunguk pupbliku ni para u mapresenta i manmaproponi na WAP State Plan para i Programan i sakkan 2019 yan ha kumbibida i Pupbliku Henerat para u ma'atendi esti na impottantin Hinekkunguk Henerat.

I hinekkunguk pupbliku para u makundukta gi Dibision Energy, giya Capitol Hill, Numirun Guma' #1337, gi Mattes, Fibreru 26, 2019, gi oran alas 5:00 gi pupuengi. Todu indibiyuat siha ni ti sumiña umatendi i hinekkunguk henerat siña muna 'halum tinigi' upiñon siha guatu gi Dibision Energy, Capitol Hill, Numirun Guma' 1337, Saipan pat i email guatu gi [cnmienergy@gmail.com](mailto:cnmienergy@gmail.com) or by mail to P.O. Box 500340, Saipan, MP 96950 gi pat antis di u mahuchum i ufisina gi , Betnes, Matso 15, 2019.

Kopia siha gi Draft State Plan para u mana'guaha gi Dibision Energy, Capitol Hill, Numirun Guma' 1337 tinituhun gi Huebes, Fibreru 07, 2019.

Para mas imfotmacion, siña un agang si Thelma B. Inos, Direktot Energy, gi 664-4480/81 pat siña un bisita i Ufisinan Dibision Energy giya Capitol Hill, Lunis asta Betnes, fuera di holidays, yan gi oran alas 11:30 gi egga'an asta alas 12:30 gi dispues di talu'ani.

---

### ARONGORONGOL TOULAP

Bwulasiyol Sów Lemelem lóll Commonwealth wól Téél Fáluw kka Faluwasch Efáng Marianas fengál me ailiisil Bwulasiyool Public Works/Energy Division Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) e bwe ayooora eew arongorong reer toulap bwelle e bwe apasa rel pommel WAP State Plan rel Program Year 2019.

Arongorong yeel e bwe fis me rel Energy Division me Capitol Hill, House #1337, wóól Mwactis, Maischigh 26, 2019, óttol 5:00 p.m.

Schóókka rese tarwe re bwe fiti arong yeel, e mmwel schagh u bwe iischilong mááfiyómw rel Energy Division, Capitol Hill, House # 1337, Seipél: ngáre e-mail ngáli: [cnmienergy@gmail.com](mailto:cnmienergy@gmail.com) me ngáre afanga ngáli P.O Box 500340, Seipél, MP 96950 wóól me ngáre mmwal igha ebwe titiló ótool angaang wól Bennis, Mááilap 15, 2019.

Kkopiyl Draft Plan, yeel nge emmwal rebwe bweibwogh me Energy Division, Capitol Hill, House #1337, wóól Wepis, Maischigh 07, 2019.

Rel kkapasal, e mmwel ów bwe fafingi ló llemwáár ye Thelma B. Inos, Energy Director, rel 664-4480/81 me ngáre igha u bwe mwette ló rel Bwulasiyol Energy Division ye e llo Capitol hill, Luunis mwette ngáli Bennis, scabw holidays, me ótool 11:30 a.m. ngáli 12:30 p.m.

**/s/ James A. Ada**  
Secretary of Public Works



# Torres: Accept FEMA housing assistance repair aid

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is appealing to homeowners that qualified for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's housing program to accept the assistance in rebuilding a typhoon-resilient home, which would secure their safety in the event of another destructive storm.

FEMA has offered to rebuild severely damaged homes from the ground up.

Torres said that, according to FEMA, there are 200 homeowners that qualified for the housing program to build concrete homes instead of the usual wood and tin materials used. "There's three versions: one-, two-, or three-bedroom homes. U.S. contractors would also come in, either voluntarily or they get paid."

"They [FEMA] provided some schematics and it looks very good. ... Please, I encourage you—short of saying I beg you—to accept FEMA to rebuild your homes."

In a previous interview with *Saipan Tribune*, FEMA Region IX administrator Robert Fenton Jr. said the housing program is part of their long-term recovery efforts in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu.

Those who are qualified to avail of the program are U.S. citizens who are homeowners and not renters, their house suffered major damage, they are uninsured, and they own the property or are living in it.

Torres said building ty-

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, right, and Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, left, talk to homeowner Ana Aldan, whose home was the last roof repaired under the tenting and roofing program of the federal government.

JON PEREZ

phoon-resilient homes is a must in the CNMI, which is regularly hit by destructive storms. "They [FEMA] will build you a home that is safe for your family and with a water that will give a supply for 14 days after a storm. It is really for the safety of your family. Not just for today or next year, but for years to come. We all know that typhoons come here regularly. So please, if you got accepted for FEMA to build your home, please accept it. I prefer that FEMA builds your home, because I'm concerned that if you take their financial aid and it comes up short—due to issues on labor cost and materials—then you are in a worse situation than where we started. Because now you just lost the opportunity of securing a home that would keep your family safe."

Torres said the islands' full recovery is still a long way to go, especially for the 200 homeowners that qualified to avail the program. "We will continue to work with FEMA on that. We want to take some time and be resilient. Get the people brand new concrete homes. Every home that they [FEMA, military, and other federal partners] built or help repair is part of rebuilding the dreams of every homeowner."



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Better Together 




# Let's Go Cleanup



Let's Go Marine staff take time between tours to remove tin and fiberglass from the waters off Susupe Beach Park and Sugar Dock on Feb. 6, 2019.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



**COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**  
Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice  
P.O. Box 502165 • Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 • Facsimile: (670) 236-9702  
Website: [www.justice.gov.mp](http://www.justice.gov.mp)

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**  
The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:  
**PROBATION OFFICE CLERK**  
Announcement # JVA19-008  
SAIPAN  
**DUTIES:** This position works under the direct supervision of the Chief Probation Officer and/or his/her designee, providing office assistance at the reception desk in accordance with office policies and procedures, and providing administrative support to probation officers in a wide range of areas. The incumbent is expected to conduct and perform the following administrative and operational clerical duties and responsibilities requirements under the probation administration and operation assignment unit(s):

- Answers and screens telephone calls and visitors; answers routine questions and directs visitors and callers to the appropriate person or department;
- Notifies offenders reporting for supervision or investigation on procedures for completing appropriate forms and authorizations;
- Prepares casework for statistical records; conducts criminal record checks through local or national law enforcement files; and records chronological entries;
- Assists the Chief or the unit supervisor in gathering and compiling the defendant's personal and/or professional background information history and other data pertinent to individual cases, including but not limited to, the defendants' home, school, church, social agencies, neighborhood contacts, and etc.;
- Assists the probation officers with their hearing schedules and other needed tasks;
- Sets up meeting(s) for the Chief, supervisors, and case managers with probationers, crime victims, law enforcement community agencies, other collaborating agencies, and/or persons of interest;
- Communicates with the public at large, person of interest(s), and private collaborating community agencies to secure their assistance in probationers' critical needs; to raise public awareness; to conduct outreach for specific needs or to provide or obtain information and training;
- Documents factual information chronologically and may testify in Court with respect to the probationers' acquired activities, referrals, and the office protocols;
- Assists in carrying out the office's policies and procedures;
- Assists the Chief and his/her designee supervisor(s) with periodic updates on needed probation forms and, policies and procedures for operational effectiveness;
- Assist the probation officers with periodic contacts made with collateral sources for information to evaluate or verify probationers' current adjustment;
- Maintains ongoing relationship with the Chief, designee, supervisors, and probation officers in all units;
- Assists with the enforcement of Court orders involving probation cases by making proper referrals to the probation officer case assignment;
- Assists the Chief, his/her designee and/or probation officer in planning office activities, conferences and field visits in connection with investigation, assessment, and supervision functions;
- Maintains accurate, neat, legible, and up-to-date case records in the prescribed form;
- Adheres to all protocols; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:** Must have a high school diploma or an equivalent degree. She or he must have at least one (1) year work experience in clerical/administrative. The position requires occasional travel within the Commonwealth. This career ladder position is an upward position to Assistant Probation Officer.  
  
Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain professional records, and uphold office policies. Must be proficient with Microsoft Word and Excel.  
  
Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid driver's license and must be able to operate a court vehicle. Criminal background check will be conducted. Applicants with criminal records will not be considered. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.  
  
**COMPENSATION AND TENURE:** This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be \$20,208.04 annually.  
  
**INTERESTED PERSONS** may obtain application form at the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 212 on the second floor or Window #3 at the front of the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:  

Human Resources  
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice  
P.O. Box 502165  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. (670)236-9818 / 783-8592  
Fax. (670) 236-9702  
[hr.judiciary@justice.gov.mp](mailto:hr.judiciary@justice.gov.mp)

  
This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.  
**THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.**



**COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**  
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Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 • Facsimile: (670) 236-9702  
Website: [www.justice.gov.mp](http://www.justice.gov.mp)

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**  
The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:  
**ASSISTANT PROBATION OFFICER**  
Announcement # JVA19-009  
SAIPAN  
**DUTIES:** This position works under the direct supervision of the Chief Probation Officer or his/her designee. The Assistant Probation Officer (he/she) will assist in the collection and entry of probation data, its verification, tracking and monitoring per the requirements of federal programs, and assist in the investigation of offenders' personal history, background and environment. In the absence of the probation officer, he/she reports findings to the Court and is prepared to make appropriate recommendations on dispositions. He/she assists with the interviews of probationers to determine effectiveness of probation and supervision and it what form further casework and counseling may be needed. He/she assists with referral of probationers' to community social resources for assistance in rehabilitation. He/she recommends revocation of probation and /or modification of court orders when necessary. Below, the Assistant Probation Officer's duties and responsibilities are further enumerated:

- Assists with the intake of counseling interviews, assigning cases according to approved counseling techniques in order to determine and clarify probationer's problems, consulting with supervisors when necessary;
- Assists the probation officer gather and evaluate data from homes, schools, churches, social agencies and neighborhoods pertinent to individual cases;
- Assists the probation officer in the probationer's complete evaluation, contacting as necessary collateral sources in order to evaluate and verify current information as to a probationer's adjustment, and refers probationers to community agencies that offer specialized services that are required for particular needs;
- Assists the probation officer monitor and enforce payment orders of the Court, i.e. restitution payments, fines and support orders, etc;
- Assists the probation officer's documentation of facts and testimony in court with respect to the probationer's activities, behavior and quality of adjustment while under supervision;
- Following established legal procedures, assists the probation officer bring alleged violations of the probationer to the attention of the Court and/ or bring the probationer before the Court as required;
- Assists the probation officer conduct investigations, prepare appropriate reports focused on a "why" of the individual's behavior and is prepared to make recommendations based on the investigations;
- Represents the Judge and the Chief Probation Officer in certain phases of meeting with the public;
- Performs various public relations activities, such as addressing community groups, participating in the conferences and panels of other agencies;
- Performs all assigned duties in the department's administration and assists in the case assignments scheduled for appearance in court;
- Plans office activities, conferences and field visits in connection with investigation and supervision functions;
- Maintains accurate, up-to-date case records in the prescribed form;
- Assists in the preparation and submission of the division's monthly statistical performance reports;
- Meets with interagency contacts, other department heads, division heads and subordinates on matters of policy and procedure;
- Inputs probation data in the Probation Tracking System and performs other duties as assigned.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:** Must be a high school graduate and have obtained an Associate of Arts and/or Science degree from a college or university in criminal justice, public administration, psychology, social work or other closely related field. Be familiar with the reading of court orders, processing a general knowledge of probation laws, the missions of probation departments, their ethics and potential liabilities.  
  
Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain professional records, and uphold office policies. Must be proficient with Microsoft Word and Excel.  
  
Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid driver's license and must be able to operate a court vehicle. Criminal background check will be conducted. Applicants with criminal records will not be considered. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.  
  
**COMPENSATION AND TENURE:** This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be \$22,280.00 annually.  
  
**INTERESTED PERSONS** may obtain application form at the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 212 on the second floor or Window #3 at the front of the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:  

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This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.  
**THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.**





**MMB DONATION**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

At the end of last week's celebration of Catholic Schools Week 2019, the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz foundation surprised Mount Carmel School with a donation of \$10,000 to help the school with its ongoing recovery efforts from Super Typhoon Yutu. MMB Sr. Katherine Bromwell, center, presented the donation to school president, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, right, and student Mikee Mendoza, in front of a mural that depicts some of the MMB sisters who pioneered the opening of the school over 60 years ago. Deleon Guerrero was humbled by the donation. "MMB sisters founded this school, sustained it for decades, and continue to help through prayers and hosting our students' spiritual retreats at the Maturana House of Prayer. This is yet another example of their commitment to Mount Carmel School and Catholic education. We are truly grateful."



**CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR MCS**

Mount Carmel School continues its Super Typhoon Yutu recovery efforts, which have been aided by continuing contributions from donors off-island. Students at Aquinas High School, a Catholic school in Augusta, Georgia, donated several boxes of school supplies, which has helped many alumni who lost much during the typhoon. The school has also received financial donations from the Knights of Columbus in Norfolk, Virginia. The school even received a new batch of life skills books from John Bendt, the great grand nephew of Fr. Arnold Bendowsky, who founded the school in 1952 with the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz. The books are used in the school's Knights Seminar course, which helps MCS seniors prepare for life after high school by studying the college admissions process, career exploration, and financial literacy. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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\*Some conditions apply. See store for details.





# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
editor@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## The state of the union is crumbling before our eyes

The state of the union is falling apart.

Our highways, bridges, airports, dams and other infrastructure need an estimated \$4.5 trillion investment over the next five years.

That number will only get worse unless President Donald Trump gets serious about committing enough federal money to meaningfully address the problem.

During Tuesday night's State of the Union address, Trump called for unity to push America forward. Fixing our roads provides a obvious opportunity for the president to walk the talk on what is the best opportunity for a bipartisan agreement in Congress.

But thus far it's been hard to take Trump seriously on this issue. Yes, he did call for investment in infrastructure improvements. But he didn't say how he plans to pay for it. The proposal is just talk unless he matches it with federal money.

Thus far, halfway through his term, he has been unwilling to do that. He has yet to offer more than the inadequate plan that he proposed during his 2016 inauguration address and his 2018 State of the Union.

Those were non-starters, too, because the president clings to a fantasy that state and local governments will pay most of the bill.

Past presidents, including Ronald Reagan and Dwight Eisenhower saw the benefits of investing federal dollars in infrastructure. They offered plans for the federal government to contribute 50 percent-80 percent of the dollars needed to build and repair highways and bridges.

But Trump has yet to offer more than a \$200 million, 20 percent investment from the federal government. The nation's local and state governments simply don't have the rest of the money.

Adequately funding the nation's needed infrastructure improvements will likely require raising the federal gas tax.

Reagan generally opposed tax increases. But he knew that importance of basic infrastructure to America's success.

In 1982, the gas tax had been stuck at 4 cents a gallon since 1959. Yet Reagan made a deal with Congress to more than double it to 9 cents a gallon to fund transportation projects.

Today, the 18.4-cent federal gas tax hasn't been increased since 1993. The failure to keep up with inflation helps explain why our transportation system has fallen into disrepair.

The Federal Highway Administration estimates that the United States has 56,000 structurally deficient bridges. An estimated 32 percent of urban roads and 14 percent of rural roads are in poor condition. Consequently, the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report continues to give the United States an unfavorable ranking compared to other Western nations.

Republicans and Democrats, blue states and red states, and business and labor agree on the need to fix the nation's infrastructure.

The president must work with the Senate and the House on a deal to keep America from falling apart.

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## Babel

Last week I mentioned a book I was waiting to get my hands on. It was *Babel: Around the World In Twenty Languages*, by Gaston Dorren (Atlantic Monthly Press, 360 pp. hardback including index, \$25).

I've since gotten my snoot into the book. It's informative and well-written. I think many *Saipan Tribune* readers will find it of interest.

Contrary to my pre-purchase notions, the book is not a travelogue. It's more of a scholarly take on the linguistics and related history, including, notably, the colonial and post-colonial histories that have shaped some of the world's most widely-spoken languages.

These languages are, in descending order of number of speakers: English; Mandarin Chinese; Spanish; Urdu-Hindi, a term that Dorren offers as a hyphenated aggregation of these related languages; Arabic; Bengali; Portuguese; Russian, Malay; French; German; Swahili; Japanese; Punjabi; Persian; Javanese; Turkish; Tamil; Korean; and, finally, in 20th place, Vietnamese.

The book starts out with Vietnamese and works its way up the list. A chapter is dedicated to each language, though Japanese actually rates a bit more than one chapter.

The book does have a little bit of travel narrative in it. Dorren went to Vietnam not once, but twice, in order to study the language. This was my favorite chapter of the book. For one thing, it puts a human texture on language, which, after all, is what language is really all about. And, for another thing, it showcases what Dorren calls "the big fat singing elephant that bedevils most East Asian languages: *tone*." Vietnamese has six such tones.

Dorren mentions a few pitfalls of using the wrong tone, such as inadvertently saying "scrotum" when you meant to say "go."

Moving to another language, Portuguese, you might wonder how such a small country (population: 10 million) can be the seventh most widely-spoken language in the world. It tallies 275 million speakers.

This is a legacy of Portugal's colonial past, which, in turn, is a legacy of its seagoing tradition dating back to the 1400s. Christopher Columbus and Ferdinand Magellan, for example, were Portuguese.

One Portuguese colony was Brazil, which now has a population of 210 million, and which consequently accounts for most Portuguese speakers. As for the Pacific, the Portuguese logged a lot of miles out here, too, with East Timor (close to Bali) and Macau (now under Chinese administration) having been Portuguese up until recent decades. The term "Formosa," often used to refer to the island of Taiwan, is said to be a Portuguese appellation ("beautiful island") dating from the 16th century.

**By ED STEPHENS JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at [EdStephensJr.com](http://EdStephensJr.com).  
His column runs every Friday.



Magellan, for his part, coined a term for the Mariana Islands, which we needn't dwell on today.

Portugal wasn't the only maritime power in the global colony business, of course, and the French, Spanish, Dutch, and British were part of the action, too. Colonial times lead to post-colonial times (well, usually), which carry with them issues of language. These things have to be settled somehow. Dorren offers a few cases in point, some peaceful, some not.

French is the 10th most widely-spoken language, with 250 million speakers, only 80 million of which are native. Part of this native tally includes parts of Canada and the Caribbean. The French colors also fly over a huge swath of the Pacific including French Polynesia and New Caledonia. Given its global clout, I had no idea that French was such a young language, at least in some respects: Dorren mentions that until 1539, Latin was the official written language of France. He also highlights some French efforts to keep their language standardized and pure.

Shifting gears to Arabic (the fifth-most widely spoken language with 375 million speakers), Dorren lists some English words that came from Arabic. The list is eight pages long! A few entries are: alchemy, algebra, algorithm, alkaline, and elixir.

Four of the 20 most widely-spoken languages have a presence in India; namely Hindi, Bengali, Punjabi, and Tamil, so there are a lot of related insights, including some examples of the written scripts, in *Babel*.

The main point I discern from *Babel* is that history and language are so interwoven that it's hard to tell where one begins and the other ends. Dorren, who is a Dutch linguist, has a good touch for meshing historical narratives with slice-of-life language examples and with some slightly wonky linguistic observations. It's an effective mix.

If you've wanted some food for thought as we prepare to start the weekend, well, now you've got some. For me, then, it's time to go. Just to be clear, that's a "g" and then an "o" for "go." There are some things you just don't want lost in translation.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## The hustle culture

**T**he whirlwind of change created by information-technology shows mankind's desire to get things done quickly through the best use of technology. It's a powerful revolution that is here to stay.

For instance, I've gone from reading good old reliable hard copy of the newspaper to a click. I instantly access online newspapers and other materials from all over. Tons of instant information! Then there's email.

Modern technology has also turned up the heat in geopolitical contest between our country and China. Other than the ongoing trade war, it has shifted to technology or who has the most powerful hi-tech device and weaponry.

I see daily use of IT devices, e.g., smartphones, tablets, laptops, etc., among our young people who know how to work the device like it's the back of their hand. I marvel at their ability to text and talk, simultaneously. Even the older folks are into the hustle for instant information.

Children are good examples how IT took their time from normal family relationships to alienation. Individual time now focuses on a smartphone, tablet, laptop and other hi-tech devices. It has created what someone called the "hustle culture."

There's the wall of silence that becomes more noticeable as each sinks into his device all on his own. Not against hi-tech devices but I find it concerning how it could adversely affect real-time relationships at home.

Before the advent of IT, you do recall spending time with family talking, especially around dinnertime. Or doing something constructive together as a family. It's almost non-existent today. Or am I being precipitous or is there simply an epidemic of NMI-wide intellectual menopause?

**A click:** The digital miracle delivers real news and fake

news, information, misinformation and disinformation at the speed of a click, creating a jumble of confusion for understanding, and perception, according to Susan Fields, columnist for the *Washington Times*.

She related, "Malevolent offshoots suggest addiction for young people growing up in the high-tech society, changing manners and mores in their modes of communication, and in their relationships, too. The consequence is a new kind of loneliness for the isolated data collector searching for photographs and responses to the latest apps."

She added, "Adults, too, become dependent not only on the information, but on the delivery of it, hooked on the search for greater speed to spread 'the latest' into a telephone, notebook or computer. With constant bombardment of personal and public 'inputs,' it's harder to make distinctions as to what's important and significant."

It's the newly minted "hustle culture," an issue that mom and dad should visit and reset to bring the team back into the family unit by talking with one another via normal conversations. Social media plays a role in all the confusion, misinformation and disinformation. It's up to you to determine which news source is credible and reliable.

**Poverty:** The quality of life for 15,000 employees earning poverty income persistently creates hardship for affected families. It may be an unpleasant issue for politicians but ignoring its resolution only prolongs the miseries of hardship families must endure from persistent negligence.

You did superbly well employing negligence, now come back and resolve it in sterling fashion too, *sayu*? Shall we hear real solution, anybody? Or do we have to harp louder?

Admittedly, the issue is a task in itself from A-Z, especially

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.*



its resolution. How do you resolve it to bring decency to these families? What's the realistic answer on this score and is it attainable? Where do we begin? Isn't it your fiduciary to resolve the much-aspired quality of life among villagers you represent?

It's time to realistically study the issue with hope of resolving it in the interest of families hit heavily with mind-numbing insufficient family income. It's unconscionable to perpetuate a situation you could resolve employing due diligence.

**Homework:** There's a claim of improvements in the local economy. To what extent has this benefited the 15,000 employees still earning poverty income at this point in time?

Quizzical that we seem somnolent or sleepy, heightening curiosity why was this issue skipped? Is it the realization of an impending heavy economic contraction that quietly but steadily heads south as we speak?

A prudent plan is in order to ensure that two basic areas are funded squarely: health and education. The rest may have to do without the luxury of extras given the current economic contraction.

## Love never arrives too late

**O**n the front of the first Valentine's Day card I ever received was the following: "Before I met you, Valentine, I didn't know what love was." On the inside of the card: "Now it's too late."

I didn't realize at the time that the smart-alecky tone embodied by that initial billet-doux would, for the next five decades of my life, shape and reflect my understanding of romance and love.

I talk for a living, but it's still hard to talk about love, especially when it's officially mandated by the calendar. (Men, of course, think Valentine's Day is a woman-dated occasion.) It's hard to talk about love because most of the time, we have no idea what we're talking about. We mutter; we fumble; we blush; we purchase plush toys. None of it makes sense.

And I say this as a woman who loves her spouse and is loved by her spouse. We've been married to each other for 28 years. We are still figuring out what love means and are still having fun gathering information on the topic.

For Michael, love means shoveling the walk, dealing with the taxes and taking the garbage to the dump. It means being happy

to see me when I come back from having given a talk on the other side of the country, even if he has to wait at the airport because the plane is late, which it inevitably is. It means dedicating his book to me. It means making me laugh. Love means not giving me a cookbook as a gift, which he did on our first Valentine's Day together and never, ever did again.

For me, love means cooking fabulous food that we both eat together almost every night ("fabulous" can mean seared sea scallops with lobster or a grilled cheese sandwich). Love means keeping the cats fed, their boxes clean and their fur shiny so that when they sit on his lap in the evening—preferring him to me as they do—they are ideal creatures. It means not being bitter that, even though I do all that work, the cats prefer him to me. It means learning how to identify makes and models of cars, both foreign and domestic, going back to 1957, when Michael had a Chevy of which he still dreams. It means keeping tabs on all birthdays, buying gifts for all occasions and preparing for all holidays, including reminding him that since Feb. 14 is on the horizon, he should be driving off to a card store.

**By GINA BARRECA**

The Hartford Courant

*Gina Barreca is a board of trustees distinguished professor of English literature at the University of Connecticut and the author of 10 books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.*



One of our ways of saying "I love you" is to say "Be careful driving." I'm not kidding. "Careful driving" is the intimate phrase we whisper in each other's ears before going to sleep. It has nothing to do with that Chevy, either. We also say "I love you," because they're important words, even if we're still figuring out the meaning.

Plenty of folks define love by employing the negative. Shakespeare spent a whole lot of time delineating what love isn't: "Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds"; "What is love? 'Tis not hereafter"; "Love looks not with the eyes but with the mind."

The Bible tells us that love doesn't envy, boast or keep records of wrongs, nor is it proud or self-seeking.

Even that ultimate authority, ABBA, asserts that "Love isn't easy."

So what is it? It's an unbuttoning of the self. Not an unbuttoning of the clothing covering your sexy self, but the reassurance that, without any camouflage, cover-ups or compromise, you're safe. You're in the presence of another person who would rather be with you than with anyone else.

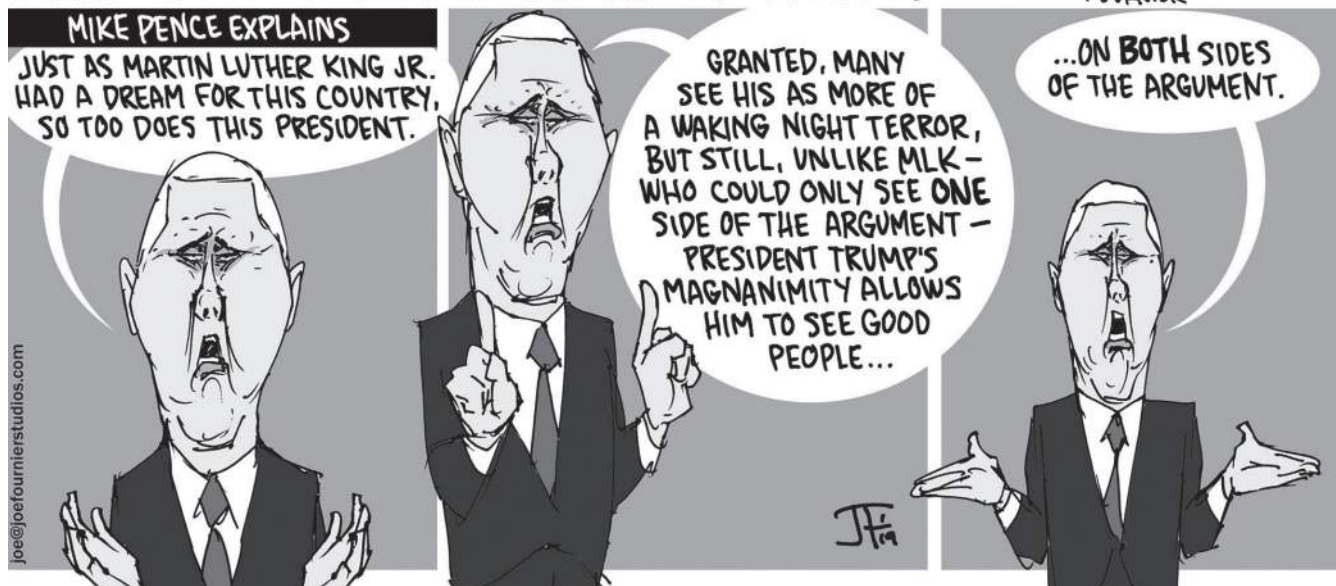
Love is a gift, and as such, it can't be earned. One of the most puzzling aspects of love is its lack of justice. It's unfair. Love can elude people who seem to deserve it while it's heaped on those who appear to ignore it, run from it, or slough it off as too restrictive.

Love is inconvenient. Love is untidy. Love is relentless, ruthless and rapacious. Done well, it's hilarious, playful and redemptive.

And unlike what that original Valentine's Day card announced, I have learned that love, whenever it arrives, is never too late.






## MLK DAY IN THE TIME OF TRUMP

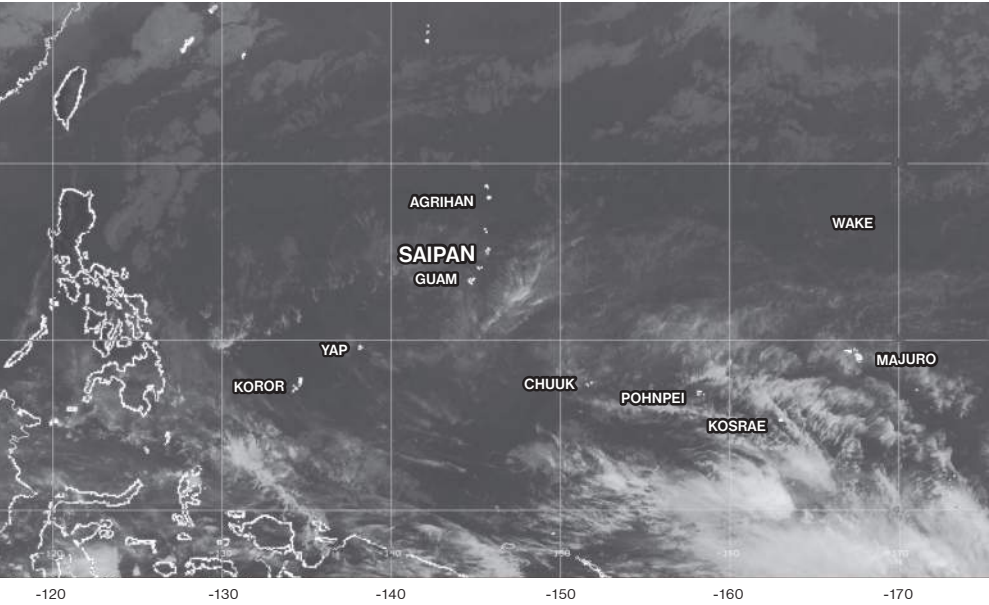
BY JOE "THE DEPTHS OF MIKE PENCE'S SUBSERVANCE ARE GIVING ME THE BENDS" FOURNIER





# The Weather

| 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN  |     |   |     |   |     |   |     |  |     |
|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|--|-----|
| TODAY   |     | SATURDAY  |     | SUNDAY  |     | MONDAY  |     | TUESDAY  |     |
|  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |  |     |
| Partly sunny with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.           |     | Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.               |     | Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.  |     | Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Breezy during the daylight hours.      |     | Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Breezy during the daylight hours.       |     |
| 86°   | 76° | 86°   | 76° | 86°   | 76° | 86°   | 76° | 86°  | 76° |
| YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE   |     |   |     |   |     |   |     |  |     |



**PICTURE TIME: 7:33 AM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

ASCAT analysis clearly shows fresh to strong trade winds converging into the moderate trade winds currently over the Marianas. This is causing an uptick in clouds and showers which is really pretty minor in the grand scheme of things. Inherited forecast handled this well with partly sunny skies the next day or so, so continued that trend, then satellite hints that it could clear up some. The new shear line that has been expected for next week will be a bit of a back door event in that it will not drop down from the north. It will instead do that to our east, then move in on us from the east. It is starting to look somewhat similar to the current setup. If so, these trade-wind swells could continue for quite some time.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

| MICRONESIA    |               |           | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| Guam and Rota | Mostly Sunny  | 85° / 76° |        |
| Palau         | Mostly Sunny  | 84° / 77° |        |
| Yap           | Mostly Sunny  | 85° / 79° |        |
| Chuuk         | Cloudy        | 85° / 79° |        |
| Pohnpei       | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 79° |        |
| Kosrae        | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 79° |        |
| Majuro        | Showers       | 85° / 80° |        |

| AROUND THE GLOBE |               |           | ▲ ▼ °F |
|------------------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| Auckland         | Partly Cloudy | 73° / 64° |        |
| Beijing          | Partly Cloudy | 30° / 14° |        |
| Hong Kong        | Partly Cloudy | 73° / 66° |        |
| Honolulu         | Mostly Sunny  | 79° / 66° |        |
| London           | Rain          | 52° / 46° |        |
| Los Angeles      | Sunny         | 62° / 46° |        |
| Manila           | Mostly Sunny  | 90° / 73° |        |
| Melbourne        | Partly Cloudy | 68° / 54° |        |
| Miami            | Mostly Sunny  | 77° / 70° |        |
| New York         | Partly Cloudy | 55° / 27° |        |
| Osaka            | Cloudy        | 46° / 37° |        |
| Paris            | Cloudy        | 50° / 46° |        |
| Busan            | Mostly Cloudy | 45° / 28° |        |
| Rome             | Partly Cloudy | 57° / 43° |        |
| Salem            | Cloudy        | 58° / 38° |        |
| San Francisco    | Rain          | 51° / 45° |        |
| Seoul            | Partly Cloudy | 34° / 12° |        |
| Tokyo            | Mixed         | 37° / 36° |        |
| Washington, DC   | Cloudy        | 62° / 28° |        |



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY |           |      | FEET |
|----------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| 3:50 AM                    | LOW TIDE  | 0.01 |      |
| 10:24 AM                   | HIGH TIDE | 1.86 |      |
| 4:26 PM                    | LOW TIDE  | 0.90 |      |
| 9:30 PM                    | HIGH TIDE | 1.73 |      |

| DAY      | SUNRISE | SUNSET  |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today    | 6:44 AM | 6:17 PM |
| Saturday | 6:44 AM | 6:18 PM |
| Sunday   | 6:43 AM | 6:18 PM |
| Monday   | 6:43 AM | 6:19 PM |
| Tuesday  | 6:43 AM | 6:19 PM |

| DAY      | MOONRISE | MOONSET  | MOONRISE |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today    | 8:52 AM  | 8:58 PM  | -        |
| Saturday | 9:29 AM  | 9:46 PM  | -        |
| Sunday   | 10:06 AM | 10:34 PM | -        |
| Monday   | 10:44 AM | 11:23 PM | -        |
| Tuesday  | 11:25 AM | -        | -        |

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| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 21, 2019 |        |         |                          |                        |         |           |                          |
|--|--------|---------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------|-----------|--------------------------|
| DEPARTURES                             |        |         |                          | ARRIVALS               |         |           |                          |
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)                      |        |         |                          | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN      |         |           |                          |
| UA117                                  | 9:15am | 9:55am  | Daily                    | UA174                  | 7:30am  | 8:11am    | Daily                    |
| UA105                                  | 6:25pm | 7:05pm  | 2, 4                     | UA104                  | 4:50pm  | 5:31pm    | 2, 4                     |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)                     |        |         |                          | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN     |         |           |                          |
| 7C3451                                 | 3:15am | 6:30am  | Daily                    | 7C3452                 | 9:35pm  | 2:00am+1  | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7         |
|  |        |         |                          | 7C3452                 | 10:05pm | 2:00am+1  | 1                        |
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)                     |        |         |                          | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN     |         |           |                          |
| OZ626                                  | 2:10am | 6:00am  | 1                        | 7C3402                 | 10:10am | 3:30pm    | Daily                    |
| OZ626                                  | 2:50am | 6:40am  | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7         | OZ625                  | 7:40pm  | 1:00am+1  | 7                        |
| 7C3403                                 | 4:35am | 8:25am  | Daily                    | OZ625                  | 8:20pm  | 1:40am+1  | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6         |
| 7C3401                                 | 4:30pm | 8:25pm  | Daily                    | 7C3404                 | 10:10pm | 3:40am+1  | Daily                    |
| SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)                  |        |         |                          | SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN  |         |           |                          |
| 3U8648                                 | 6:10am | 8:50am  | 1, 4, 5, 7               | 3U8647                 | 10:20pm | 4:50am+1  | 3, 4, 6, 7               |
| SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)                  |        |         |                          | HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN  |         |           |                          |
| JD396                                  | 7:30am | 11:00am | 1                        | JD395                  | 8:05am  | 3:30pm    | 4                        |
| JD396                                  | 4:50pm | 7:55pm  | 4                        | JD395                  | 9:35pm  | 5:00am+1  | 7                        |
| SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)                 |        |         |                          | GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN |         |           |                          |
| 3U8646                                 | 4:30am | 7:55am  | 2, 6                     | 3U8645                 | 7:55pm  | 2:40am+1  | 1, 5                     |
| SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)                   |        |         |                          | BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN   |         |           |                          |
| MU764                                  | 1:30am | 6:35am  | 3, 5, 7                  | MU763                  | 4:40pm  | 12:30am+1 | 2, 4, 6                  |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)                    |        |         |                          | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN    |         |           |                          |
| UA117/183                              | 9:15am | 9:40pm  | 2, 5 via GUM             | UA182/174              | 12:40am | 8:11am+1  | 3, 6 via GUM             |
| UA117/183                              | 9:15am | 9:50pm  | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM    | PR110/UA174            | 10:05pm | 8:11am+1  | Daily via GUM            |
| UA117/193                              | 9:15am | 11:50pm | 2, 5 via GUM-ROR         | UA192/174              | 10:30pm | 8:11am+1  | 2, 5 via GUM-ROR         |
| UA105/183                              | 4:45pm | 9:40pm  | 2 via GUM                | UA184/174              | 10:55pm | 8:11am+1  | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM    |
| UA105/183                              | 4:45pm | 9:50pm  | 4 via GUM                |                        |         |           |                          |
| SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)                 |        |         |                          | HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN |         |           |                          |
| HX077                                  | 1:50am | 5:15am  | 1, 4                     | OZ722/625              | 1:15pm  | 1:00am+1  | 7 via ICN                |
| OZ626/721                              | 2:10am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN                | OZ722/625              | 1:15pm  | 1:40am+1  | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| OZ626/721                              | 2:50am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | HX076                  | 5:15pm  | 12:15am+1 | 3, 7                     |
| UO43                                   | 5:45am | 8:40am  | 1, 3, 5, 7               | UO42                   | 6:50pm  | 1:45am+1  | 7                        |
| UA117/159                              | 9:15am | 11:00pm | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM | UO42                   | 9:30pm  | 4:25am+1  | 2, 4, 6                  |
| ‘                                      |        |         |                          | UA116/174              | 11:45pm | 8:11am+1  | 2, 4 via GUM             |
| UA105/159                              | 4:45pm | 11:00pm | 2, 4 via GUM             | UA116/174              | 11:55pm | 8:11am+1  | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM       |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

| SAIPAN TO ROTA   |           |         |           |
|------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| FLIGHT #         | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
| 1301             | 7:30AM    | 8:00AM  | Daily     |
| 1302             | 11:30AM   | 12:00PM | Daily     |
| 1303             | 4:00PM    | 4:30PM  | Daily     |
| ROTA TO SAIPAN   |           |         |           |
| FLIGHT #         | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
| 3101             | 8:15AM    | 8:45AM  | Daily     |
| 3102             | 1:45PM    | 2:15PM  | Daily     |
| 3103             | 4:45PM    | 5:15PM  | Daily     |
| ROTA TO GUAM     |           |         |           |
| FLIGHT #         | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
| 3401             | 12:15PM   | 12:45PM | Daily     |
| GUAM TO ROTA     |           |         |           |
| FLIGHT #         | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
| 4301             | 1:00PM    | 1:30PM  | Daily     |
| SAIPAN TO TINIAN |           |         |           |
| FLIGHT #         | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
| 1201             | 7:00AM    | 7:15AM  | Daily     |
| 1202             | 8:00AM    | 8:15AM  | Daily     |

| 1203             | 9:00AM    | 9:15AM  | Daily     |
|------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| 1204             | 10:00AM   | 10:15AM | Daily     |
| 1205             | 11:00AM   | 11:15AM | Daily     |
| 1206             | 12:00PM   | 12:15PM | Daily     |
| 1207             | 1:00PM    | 1:15PM  | Daily     |
| 1208             | 2:00PM    | 2:15PM  | Daily     |
| 1209             | 3:00PM    | 3:15PM  | Daily     |
| 1210             | 4:00PM    | 4:15PM  | Daily     |
| 1211             | 5:00PM    | 5:15PM  | Daily     |
| 1212             | 6:00PM    | 6:15PM  | Daily     |
| TINIAN TO SAIPAN |           |         |           |
| FLIGHT #         | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
| 2102             | 7:30AM    | 7:45AM  | Daily     |
| 2103             | 8:30AM    | 8:45AM  | Daily     |
| 2104             | 9:30AM    | 9:45AM  | Daily     |
| 2105             | 10:30AM   | 10:45AM | Daily     |
| 2106             | 11:30AM   | 11:45AM | Daily     |
| 2107             | 12:30PM   | 12:45PM | Daily     |
| 2108             | 1:30PM    | 1:45PM  | Daily     |
| 2109             | 2:30PM    | 2:45PM  | Daily     |
| 2110             | 3:30PM    | 3:45PM  | Daily     |
| 2111             | 4:30PM    | 4:45PM  | Daily     |
| 2112             | 5:30PM    | 5:45PM  | Daily     |
| 2113             | 6:30PM    | 6:45PM  | Daily     |



# GCA congratulates January K-12 Math Court winners

Grace Christian Academy’s K-12 Mathletes flocked to ChaCha Ocean View Middle School last Jan. 26, 2019, to compete in the first Saipan islandwide Math Court competition this school year.

The administration, faculty and staff, and parents of Grace Christian Academy were very proud of each Math Court competitor and would like to extend their congratulations to the following Saipan winners and state round qualifiers. All of them are qualified to compete in the regional competition.

Math Court promotes mathematics in the CNMI.

## Saipan-Island wide winners

### Kinder -3<sup>rd</sup> Grade State Round Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade**  
■ En Mei Victoria Huang, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**  
■ Hans Ordas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**  
■ Llana Jaira Manalang, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

**State Round Qualifiers K-3**  
■ En Mei Victoria Huang  
■ Hans Ordas  
■ Llana Jaira Manalang

### 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> Grade State Round Winners

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
■ Taehun Han, 4<sup>th</sup> Place  
■ Aasish Dangol, 5<sup>th</sup> Place

**State Round Qualifiers 4-6**  
■ Taehun Han  
■ Aasish Dangol



Grace Christian Academy's K-6 January 2019 Math Court winners.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## High School State Round Winners

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
■ Joanah Victoria Jimenez, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
■ Julie Quan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

■ SeongBeom Song, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
**12<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
■ MinHyeok Ha, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
■ Tina Choi, 5<sup>th</sup> Place

**State Round Qualifiers High School**  
■ Joanah Victoria Jimenez  
■ Seunghan Han  
■ Julie Quan

■ SeongBeom Song  
■ MinHyeok Ha  
■ Tina Choi  
■ Chener Li  
■ Jushua Qiu

GCA proctors: Marilyn Aldan, Amanda Haas, Deenalin Crook, Jess Pantaleon  
GCA Math Court coordinator: Susan Pajarillaga



Grace Christian Academy's January 2019 High School Math Court winners.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# KCHC now open on Saturdays

To make it more accessible to the community, the Kagman Community Health Center is opening its doors for services on Saturday mornings from 8am to 12pm beginning tomorrow, Feb. 9, 2019.

The new hours of operations are as follows:

■ Monday: 8am - 4pm  
■ Tuesday: 8am - 4pm  
■ Wednesday: 8am -12pm

■ Thursday: 8am - 4pm  
■ Friday: 8am - 4pm  
■ Saturday: 8am - 12pm  
■ Sunday: Closed

To make an appointment or to get information, call 256-KCHC (5242). Walk-ins are welcome depending on availability. Patients with appointments are given priority to be seen.

KCHC is a federally qualified health center that serves all patients regardless of inability to pay. Everyone is welcome, even those that reside outside the Kagman area. *(PR)*

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 25th birthday to Jason Smlina! We love you! Greetings come from Rachel, Frantina, and Maria.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**MARK SCOGGINS**  
**SCOGGINS LAW OFFICE, LLC**  
2nd Floor, MIC Building,  
Chalan Monsignor Guerrero San Jose Village  
P.O. Box 501127 Saipan, MP 96950-1127  
Telephone Nos.: (670) 234-7455 / 7427  
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

*Attorney for Petitioner*

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| IN THE          | ) CIVIL ACTION                              |
| MATTER OF       |   |
| THE ESTATE OF   | ) NOTICE OF HEARING and NOTICE TO CREDITORS |
| CARMEN          |   |
| CAMACHO ATALIG, | DATE: Feb 28, 2019                          |
| Deceased.       | TIME: 9:00 am                               |
|                 | JUDGE: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho               |

**TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HER ESTATE**

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Angelica C. Atalig, has filed a Petition For Letters of Administration in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to NMI R. Prob. P 15.

A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on **February 28, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan.** All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to NMI R. Prob. P 21, notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or her Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Attorney Mark Scoggins at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO NOTICED this 24th day of January 2019.

*/s/ JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, Associate Judge*

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: ITB19-CCC-055**

**SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 08, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.**

**“OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A-D)**

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ EDWARD DELEON GUERRERO**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CCC**

**/S/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA**  
**ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S**

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**AMENDED NOTICE**  
**Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport**  
**“Car Rental Concessions”**  
**CPA-RFP-002-19**  
**Request for Proposals**  
for:  
**CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-01**  
**CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-02**  
**CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-03**  
**CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-04**  
**CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-05**  
**CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-06**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of six (6) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport (“Car Rental Concessions”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-002-19 is **December 05, 2018**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on February 8, 2019**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
Executive Director

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
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Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**AMENDED NOTICE**  
**Tinian International Airport**  
**“Car Rental Concessions”**  
**CPA-RFP-003-19**  
**Request for Proposals**  
for:  
**CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-07**  
**CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-08**  
**CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-09**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Tinian International Airport (“Car Rental Concessions”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Tinian International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

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**AMENDED NOTICE**  
**Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport**  
**“Car Rental Concessions”**  
**CPA-RFP-004-19**  
**Request for Proposals**  
for:  
**CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-10**  
**CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-11**  
**CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-12**

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**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
Executive Director



# GCA congratulates January K-12 Math Court winners

Grace Christian Academy's K-12 Mathletes flocked to ChaCha Ocean View Middle School last Jan. 26, 2019, to compete in the first Saipan islandwide Math Court competition this school year.

The administration, faculty and staff, and parents of Grace Christian Academy were very proud of each Math Court competitor and would like to extend their congratulations to the following Saipan winners and state round qualifiers. All of them are qualified to compete in the regional competition.

Math Court promotes mathematics in the CNMI.

## Saipan-Island wide winners

### Kinder -3<sup>rd</sup> Grade State Round Winners

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

- En Mei Victoria Huang, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

- Hans Ordas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

- Llana Jaira Manalang, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

### State Round Qualifiers K-3

- En Mei Victoria Huang
- Hans Ordas
- Llana Jaira Manalang

### 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> Grade State Round Winners

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Taehun Han, 4<sup>th</sup> Place
- Aasish Dangol, 5<sup>th</sup> Place

### State Round Qualifiers 4-6

- Taehun Han
- Aasish Dangol



Grace Christian Academy's K-6 January 2019 Math Court winners.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## High School State Round Winners

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Joanah Victoria Jimenez, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Julie Quan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

- SeongBeom Song, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

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- MinHyeok Ha, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 25th birthday to Jason Smlina! We love you! Greetings come from Rachel, Frantina, and Maria.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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**SCOGGINS LAW OFFICE, LLC**  
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P.O. Box 501127 Saipan, MP 96950-1127  
Telephone Nos.: (670) 234-7455 / 7427  
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorney for Petitioner

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE ) CIVIL ACTION  
MATTER OF ) NO. 19-0022  
THE ESTATE OF ) NOTICE OF HEARING  
and NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS  
CARMEN ) DATE: Feb 28, 2019  
CAMACHO ATALIG, ) TIME: 9:00 am  
Deceased. ) JUDGE: Hon. Joseph  
N. Camacho

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HER ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Angelica C. Atalig, has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to NMI R. Prob. P 15.

A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on **February 28, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan.** All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to NMI R. Prob. P 21, notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or her Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Attorney Mark Scoggins at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO NOTICED this 24th day of January 2019.

/s/ JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, Associate Judge

### PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

#### INVITATION TO BID

## ITB NO.: ITB19-CCC-055

#### SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 08, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

### "OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION"

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**/S/ EDWARD DELEON GUERRERO**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CCC

**/S/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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## AMENDED NOTICE

### Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport "Car Rental Concessions" CPA-RFP-002-19 Request for Proposals

for:  
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-01  
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CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-04  
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-05  
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-06

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**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
Executive Director

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for:  
CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-07  
CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-08  
CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-09

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## AMENDED NOTICE

### Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport "Car Rental Concessions" CPA-RFP-004-19 Request for Proposals

for:  
CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-10  
CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-11  
CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-12

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**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
Executive Director



Business

Trump introduces World Bank critic David Malpass to lead it

**WASHINGTON (AP)—**President Donald Trump on Wednesday introduced David Malpass, a Treasury official he has nominated to lead the World Bank, as the “right person to take on this incredibly important job.”

Malpass, who is now Trump’s undersecretary for international affairs at the Treasury Department, has been a sharp critic of the 189-nation World Bank. He has argued that the bank, a lending institution with a focus on emerging countries, has concerned itself too much with its own expansion and not enough with its core missions, like fighting poverty.

Malpass would succeed Jim Yong Kim, who left in January three years before his term was to end.

Malpass, 62, made clear Wednesday that his focus at the World Bank would include furthering the Trump administration’s agendas for developing countries.

One major initiative, he said, would be to implement changes to the World bank that he and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin helped negotiate. And in a nod to the president’s daughter and adviser, Ivanka Trump, Malpass said



he would focus on improving the status of women.

“A key goal will be to ensure that women achieve full participation in developing economies,” Malpass said. “I know Ivanka has been a strong leader on women’s economic empowerment, and I look forward to continuing our work together on her women’s global development and prosperity initiative.”

In a meeting with reporters after Trump announced his nomination, Malpass sought to put his longtime criticism

of the World Bank and its sister lending organization, the International Monetary Fund, into context.

He said his efforts going back to his service in the Reagan administration have been aimed at reforming both institutions. He pointed to the work he had done in the Trump administration to gain approval for a \$13 billion capital increase for the bank, the first increase in eight years, a boost that included various lending reforms.

He said his challenge will

be to implement the reforms included with the capital increase, including restrictions on World Bank lending to major developing nations such as China and India.

He said loans to those countries took away resources that should be going to poorer nations.

“I look forward to working with China and others on what the appropriate pace of that wind-down (of their loans) should be,” Malpass told reporters.

The U.S. nomination of

Russell Newell said others received “interim payments of back pay” that would be made up in the next pay period.

The Census Bureau acknowledged Wednesday that about 850 employees nationwide have yet to receive back pay or have only gotten a fraction of what they’re owed. A spokesman said they expected most of those workers to be paid by Friday.

Other affected agencies include the Federal Aviation Administration, where two unions representing FAA workers said their members had not yet received all of their back pay.

Doug Church of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association said members who worked during the shutdown had not gotten overtime, which he said was a violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act. They also had not received the extra pay they were due for working nights and holidays, he said.

**AP**  
President Donald Trump congratulates David Malpass, undersecretary of the Treasury for international affairs, after announcing his nomination to head the World Bank, during an event in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019, in Washington.

Malpass for the top job will go before the bank’s board of directors on Thursday. He said he did not know whether other countries would put forward their own candidates but he said he would be traveling over the next several weeks to various countries to promote his candidacy, stopping first in China and Japan.

Since the World Bank and IMF were formed in the mid-1940s, the World Bank has always been led by an American and the IMF has always been led by a European. The United

States is the largest shareholder in both organizations.

Senior administration officials, insisting on anonymity to discuss plans for the World Bank, said Malpass would evaluate bank programs based on such criteria as whether they helped raise median incomes and improved financial transparency.

Addressing climate change, which has been a priority for the World Bank, was pointedly not among the benchmarks of success that these officials named, though they said Malpass would honor existing initiatives.

Trump, who has been openly skeptical of climate change, announced in 2017 that he was pulling the United States out of the Paris Agreement, an international accord that created a framework for curbing carbon emissions.

Trump now says he wants more legal immigration

**WASHINGTON (AP)—**President Donald Trump says he’s now in favor of more legal immigration because of economic gains on his watch.

Trump raised eyebrows in his State of the Union speech Tuesday when he said he wanted people “to come into our country in the largest numbers ever, but they have to come in legally.” His policy positions to date do not reflect that wish.

Asked Wednesday during a meeting with regional reporters whether the line represented a change in policy, Trump said it did.

That’s according to a transcript tweeted by a reporter from The Advocate newspaper in which Trump is quoted saying: “I need more people coming in because we need people to run the factories and plants and companies that are moving back in.”

In his speech Tuesday, Trump had argued that immigrants in the U.S. illegally take jobs away from middle-class Americans. However, much of the recent economic research suggests that immigration has no significant effect on job growth for U.S.-

born workers in the long-run.

It’s difficult to know just how many jobs will be added by newly planned mills. Construction spending on factories has yet to take off significantly after having been in decline between 2016 and much of 2018. Construction spending on factories has been flat in the past year, according to the Census Bureau.

Trump has proposed several policies that would severely restrict legal immigration, including limiting immigrants’ ability to sponsor family members to join them. He has also slashed for the last two years the number of refugees the U.S. will accept.

The Cato Institute, which favors more open immigration policies, estimated the immigration plan Trump has proposed would cut the number of legal immigrants by up to 44 percent, the largest cut to legal immigration since the 1920s.

The White House did not immediately respond to questions about how it might be translating Trump’s new thinking into its policy stances and proposals.

Some workers still unpaid after shutdown, dread what’s next

Nearly two weeks after the end of the longest government shutdown in U.S. history, many federal workers still have not received their back pay or have only gotten a fraction of what they are owed as government agencies struggle with payroll glitches and other delays.

And even as they scramble to catch up on unpaid bills and to repay unemployment benefits, the prospect of another shutdown looms next week.

“President Trump stood in the Rose Garden at the end of the shutdown and said, ‘We will make sure that you guys are paid immediately.’ ... And here it is, it’s almost two weeks later,” said Michael Walter, who works for the U.S. Department of Agriculture food safety inspection service in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and only got his paycheck Wednesday. He said two co-workers told him they still had received nothing.

The government has been

short on details about how many people are still waiting to be paid.

Bradley Bishop, a spokesman for the Office of Management and Budget, said the Trump administration had taken “unprecedented steps to ensure federal employees impacted by the shutdown received back pay within a week.”

“Much opposite of ‘slow and chaotic,’ an overwhelming majority of employees received their pay by Jan. 31,” he said, though he didn’t respond to questions about how many people still hadn’t been paid.

The USDA said in a statement that pay was its top priority, but also did not respond to questions about how many workers were still awaiting paychecks. Asked to confirm that some people hadn’t been paid, USDA spokeswoman Amanda Heitkamp replied, “I’m not sure.”

Donna Zelina’s husband

works for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in South Dakota. He has received only a portion of his back pay, and does not expect to be fully paid until Feb. 12. The couple had to drain their savings shortly before the shutdown when both his parents died, leaving them in a precarious financial position.

Zelina said she called her creditors, but they wouldn’t work with her. Her husband’s car loan went into forbearance, causing them to rack up fees.

“I don’t think people really understand what people do in government and just assume that everybody ... makes millions of dollars,” she said.

A spokesman for the Department of Interior, which handles payroll for more than five dozen government offices, did not answer when asked how many workers were due back pay, but said a “small group of employees” had not received anything. Spokesman

STOCK

PORTFOLIO

DOW

25,390.30

-21.22

-0.84%

S&P

2,731.61

-6.09

-0.22%

NASDAQ

7,375.28

-26.80

-0.36%

In U.S. dollar terms

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Australian Dollar | 1.4090 |
| British Pound     | 0.7733 |
| Canadian Dollar   | 1.3245 |
| Chinese Yuan      | 6.6242 |
| Euro              | 0.8800 |

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Hong Kong Dollar   | 7.8449   |
| Indian Rupee       | 70.8912  |
| Japanese Yen       | 109.9370 |
| Malaysian Ringgit  | 4.0263   |
| New Zealand Dollar | 1.4818   |
| Philippine Peso    | 51.2913  |

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| Russian Ruble    | 65.7158 |
| Singapore Dollar | 1.3558  |
| South Korean Won | 1104.49 |
| Swiss Franc      | 1.0025  |
| Taiwan Dollar    | 30.2963 |
| Thailand Baht    | 31.2135 |



# Nation

## Democrats mute calls for Va. resignations with power at risk

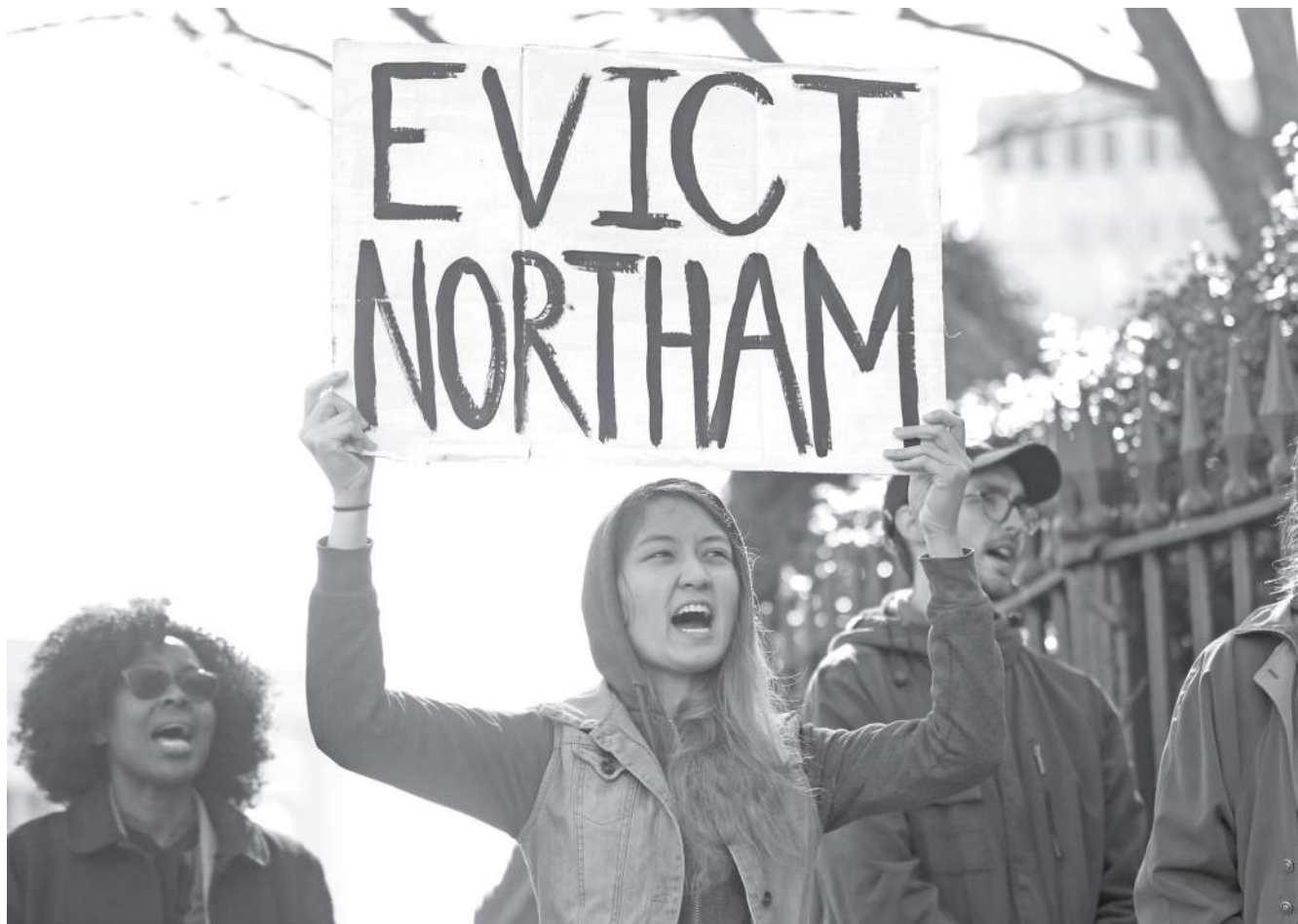
**RICHMOND, Va. (AP)**—Prominent Democrats came down hard on Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam after he apologized for a racist photo. But they were quieter as two more scandals — one involving race, another a sexual assault allegation — rocked Virginia's statehouse.

The subdued response from national Democrats shows how their zero-tolerance approach has put them in a bind. The party has prided itself on policing its own and hoped to contrast that record with the GOP's tolerance of misbehavior by President Donald Trump. Now the party will have to decide whether to stick with its principles or retain its political power.

"The party's put in an odd position," said Liam Donovan, a Republican strategist who, like much of the political world, watched Virginia's developments with astonishment Wednesday. "Let's say they live by their standards and clean house. The stakes are very real now because the line of succession goes through the other side."

Last Friday, a picture of a man in blackface on Northam's medical school yearbook page surfaced. During a press conference Saturday, Northam insisted he was not in the yearbook photo but admitted he had once worn blackface. Virginia's Attorney General, Mark Herring, said, "It is no longer possible for Gov. Northam to lead our Commonwealth."

On Wednesday, the Democrat who would succeed Northam, Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax, reeled from a detailed



Geraldine Mabagos, of Richmond, holds a sign during a protest in Richmond calling for Governor Ralph Northam to resign on Monday Feb. 4, 2019.

statement released by a woman who accused him of sexually assaulting her 15 years ago.

Later Wednesday, Herring, the Democrat who would succeed Fairfax, admitted he had worn blackface while in college.

If all three Democrats stepped down, Republicans would take over the state's top offices. The GOP speaker of the House of Delegates, Kirk Cox, is in line to become governor, and the Republican-controlled House would select

a new attorney general. That's a different dynamic from recent efforts by Democrats to clean house.

In 2017, the party pushed Sen. Al Franken, a Minnesota Democrat, to resign after several women accused him of sexual harassment, but he was replaced by a Democrat. When interparty fury rained down on Northam after the photo came to light last Friday, it seemed likely he'd be replaced by Fairfax.

"The cost for Democrats of getting rid of the office holder are really low," Seth Masket, a University of Denver political scientist, said of the Northam and Franken scandals earlier this week. "The real test," he added, would be a scenario in which Republicans could gain a key political office.

Democrats did not seem to

pass that test Wednesday. No Democratic presidential contender candidate issued any statement calling for the resignations of Herring or Fairfax, whose accuser, Vanessa Tyson, is represented by the same law firm that represented future Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh's first accuser, Christine Blasey Ford.

## Boyfriend of admitted covert Russian agent accused of fraud

**PIERRE, S.D. (AP)**—The boyfriend of a Russian woman who admitted she was a secret agent for the Kremlin has been charged with fraud in South Dakota, the U.S. Attorney's Office announced Wednesday.

Businessman and conservative political operative Paul Erickson, 56, pleaded not guilty Wednesday to 11 counts of wire fraud and money laundering, a day after he was indicted, according to the South Dakota U.S. Attorney's Office. He faces up to 20 years in prison for each count. The charges appear unrelated to the case of Maria Butina, 30, who pleaded guilty in December for trying to infiltrate conservative political groups.

Prosecutors said Erickson defrauded "many victims" from 1996 through August 2018. The indictment accuses Erickson of concocting a variety of schemes to carry out well over \$1 million in fraudulent transactions, including recruiting investors for a string of elder care homes; developing a wheelchair that allowed

a person to use the bathroom from the chair; and home-building in North Dakota's booming oil fields.

Erickson made false representations to get people to invest in the schemes, according to prosecutors. An attorney for Erickson didn't immediately return a phone message seeking comment from The Associated Press.

Before his indictment, Erickson was caught up in Butina's high-profile case, which was separate from special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Butina acknowledged she "sought to establish unofficial lines of communication with Americans having power and influence over U.S. politics," according to her plea agreement. She admitted that her boyfriend, Erickson, helped her as she tried to use his ties with the National Rifle Association to set up the back channels. It's not clear if Erickson will face charges in that

South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, who is exploring a Democratic presidential bid, told NBC, "I don't know that this is a set of decisions we can automate because each of these cases brings different elements to it."

New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker told reporters at the Capitol that "it takes tremendous courage for someone to come forward in the way that she did. This is a deeply disturbing allegation that should be thoroughly investigated."

Former HUD Secretary Julian Castro, who was the first presidential candidate to call for Northam's resignation, told MSNBC it was important for the party to confront the issue. "This can be painful," Castro said. "But I'm confident that at the end of that day, what we're going to have is not only a stronger Democratic Party, more importantly we're going to have a stronger country that lives by these values of respect for everybody."

Jennifer Wexton, a newly elected Democratic congresswoman representing Northern Virginia, tweeted, "I believe Dr. Vanessa Tyson." And Al Sharpton, the prominent black activist and television personality, told BuzzFeed News that Herring and Northam should resign and that he'd lead protests against the two politicians. The National Organization of Women called for Fairfax's resignation.

case. As part of her deal, Butina pleaded guilty to a single charge of conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent and she agreed to cooperate with investigators.

In South Dakota, Erickson in 2015 helped arrange speeches for Butina to talk about freedom and entrepreneurship at a Sioux Falls school, at the University of South Dakota and at a teenage Republican camp held in the Black Hills.

Arranging the events followed an unusual career for Erickson that included working on Pat Buchanan's 1992 presidential campaign and making an action movie with Jack Abramoff.

Erickson served as national treasurer of the College Republicans while at Yale University. He graduated in 1984, got a law degree in 1988 from the University of Virginia and was executive producer of Abramoff's brainchild, "Red Scorpion," an anti-communist action film starring Dolph Lundgren.

## Arizona city officials want border wall's razor wire removed

**NOGALES, Ariz. (AP)**—Officials in a small Arizona border city passed a resolution Wednesday night condemning the installation of new razor wire that now covers the entirety of a tall border wall through downtown.

The City Council in Nogales, which sits on the border with Nogales, Mexico, wants the federal government to remove all concertina wire installed within the city limits.

Otherwise, Nogales Mayor Arturo Garino said the city will sue.

City officials say Army troops installed more horizontal layers of the wire along the border wall last weekend.

The council's resolution says the razor wire would harm or kill anyone who scales the wall and "is only found in a war, prison or battle setting" and should not be in downtown Nogales.

In a statement, the U.S.

Customs and Border Protection said the wire was added after a request "for additional support in high-risk urban areas commonly exploited by criminal smuggling organizations." It did not say who made the request.

The new wire is being added to sections outside city limits, according to a CBP spokeswoman. In locations where there is high pedestrian activity, the concertina wire is limited to only the upper portion of the wall, she wrote.

"Signage in Spanish and English has been put in place warning individuals of these dangers and prohibiting access," the statement said.

Garino said he was most concerned that children and others could be injured now that it reaches the ground. The downtown area is also residential, and there are homes that stand a few feet from the border fence.

"Aesthetically pleasing—

it's not. It's very bad. It's not good for business, it's not good for what we're trying to create, a business-friendly community here in Nogales," Garino told the AP.

Photos published by the Nogales International newspaper show six rows of concertina wire stacked along the approximately two-story wall.

The Nogales City Council's action came one day after President Donald Trump made his case to the American people about the need for a border wall and how he has ordered 3,750 troops to prepare for what he called a "tremendous onslaught."

Nogales, a city of about 20,000 people, is a fraction of the size of its Mexican counterpart, but its economy is largely reliant on Mexican shoppers and cross-border trade. Illegal crossings in that area have dropped steeply in the past several years.



# Asia

## Thailand: Soccer player must go through extradition hearings

**BANGKOK** (AP)—Thailand's government insisted Wednesday it cannot free a detained soccer player who has refugee status in Australia until hearings on Bahrain's request for his extradition are completed.

Thailand has come under great pressure from Australia's government, sporting bodies and human rights groups to send Hakeem al-Araibi back to Australia. He was arrested last year at a Bangkok airport when he arrived on a honeymoon trip with his wife.

Al-Araibi, a former player on Bahrain's national team, says he fled Bahrain due to political repression and that he fears torture if he returns. Bahrain wants him back to serve a 10-year prison sentence he received in absentia in 2014 for alleged involvement in the arson of a police station, a charge he denies.

He contends he was blindfolded and had his legs beaten while he was held in Bahrain previously and believes he was targeted for arrest because of his Shiite faith and because his brother was politically active in Bahrain. Bahrain has a Shiite majority but is ruled by a Sunni monarchy.

Thai authorities said at a news conference Wednesday that after detaining the 25-year-old al-Araibi on his November arrival in Bangkok, they received a direct request from Bahrain for his extradition, compelling them carry out court hearings.



AP  
Bahraini Hakeem al-Araibi, center, leaves the criminal court in Bangkok, Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand, Monday, Feb. 4, 2019.

Thailand finds itself in the middle of a case involving two countries competing for Mr. Hakeem's custody."

The statement suggested that Australia and Bahrain talk with each other to work out a mutually acceptable agreement on al-Araibi's fate, rather than have a Thai court decide it.

"Thailand hopes that Australia and Bahrain will have the goodwill to earnestly work together towards finding a win-win solution to this issue," it said. "In that way, we believe that those following this case in Thailand and around the world will praise both Australia and Bahrain for their efforts."

In the latest action in support of al-Araibi, Australian soccer authorities canceled a game in Thailand to protest his continued detention.

Football Federation Australia announced Wednesday it had scrapped the game against China, a scheduled warmup ahead of next month's qualifiers for the Asian under-23 championships.

Former Australia national team captain Craig Foster and the Australian and international players' unions have been leading a campaign for the release al-Araibi, who plays for a semi-professional club in Australia.

"From this point on, the case has entered into the Thai judiciary system," said Triumph Jalichandra, deputy spokesman for the attorney general's office. "The government's position is that it will not interfere. It will take some time before the court makes its decision. We don't know what that decision will be. Please don't make an assumption that the court will rule one way or the other. We have to wait and see."

Al-Araibi will stay in custody until a court begins hearings

on April 22 on his extradition case. He informed the court on Monday that he declined to be voluntarily extradited.

The Australian government has urged Thailand to exercise its legal discretion to free al-Araibi.

Thailand's Foreign Ministry said in a statement late Tuesday that al-Araibi was detained on arrival because Australian authorities had forwarded them an Interpol Red Notice that Bahrain was seeking his arrest. Australian

police acknowledge doing so, but there have been questions raised about why the Red Notice appeared to have been issued just before al-Araibi departed on his trip, and whether Bahraini authorities had been tipped off about his travel plans.

The Foreign Ministry statement appeared to be a defensive response to the almost daily public appeals Thailand has been receiving asking for al-Araibi's release.

"Thailand had previously not been aware of Mr. Hakeem's case and does not

have any prejudice against him. Indeed, we would not have become involved in the issue had we not received the Red Notice alert from the Australian Interpol and the subsequent formal request by Bahrain for his arrest and extradition," it said.

Laying out the main argument at Wednesday's news conference, it said that "Thailand does not gain anything from holding Mr. Hakeem in custody. But as a sovereign country that has legal obligations and commitments to the international community,

## Foreign aid groups accuse Indian government of impeding work

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—Their offices raided, bank accounts frozen and travel restricted, international aid and rights groups with deep roots in India say they are struggling to operate under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party has elevated the role of sympathetic homegrown social organizations while cracking down on foreign charities.

Greenpeace India, which has repeatedly pushed the government to address hazardous air quality in cities across India, said this month that it was forced to close two regional offices and sharply reduce its staff after its Bengaluru offices were raided and its bank accounts frozen.

Tax officials allege it was illegally receiving funds through a shell company set up to evade authorities after India's home minister canceled the group's license.

Amnesty International India, which has accused the Modi government of eroding

freedom to dissent by jailing prominent critics, had to slash 68 jobs—30 percent of its in-country workforce—and cancel programs after Finance Ministry officials carried out a 12-hour raid on its headquarters in November.

While the raid was underway, the government released a statement accusing the group of illegally receiving 260 million rupees (\$3.5 million) from an overseas account through a shell company.

Both Greenpeace and Amnesty International have denied the allegations.

International aid organizations have operated in India for decades, collaborating with the government on issues ranging from clean water to children's education to disposal of e-waste.

The government no longer sees these groups as partners, activists and observers say, but rather as threats.

Critics say the government is attempting to cover up human rights failures by

cracking down on groups that expose them.

"Government authorities are increasingly treating human rights organizations like criminal enterprises," said Amnesty International India executive director Aakar Patel.

Vijay Khurana, secretary-general of the Confederation of Non-Governmental Organizations of India, supports the government crackdown on international organizations doing aid work with foreign funding.

"It has become a business for them. They misuse funds, land and other facilities provided by donors," Khurana said, adding that the government should further encourage Indian organizations funded by local donors.

The Modi government has used the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, which regulates foreign funding for civil society groups, to cut off funds and stymie activities of organizations that question its policies, rights activists say.

## Taliban: Half of US troops to leave Afghanistan by May 1

**MOSCOW** (AP)—A Taliban official said Wednesday that the United States has promised to withdraw half of its troops from Afghanistan by the end of April, but the U.S. military said it has received no orders to begin packing up.

Taliban official Abdul Salam Hanafi, speaking on the sidelines of a meeting in Moscow between prominent Afghan figures and Taliban representatives, said officials promised the pullout will begin this month.

"The Americans told us that from the beginning of February to the end of April, half of the troops from Afghanistan will be withdrawn," Hanafi said.

However, Pentagon spokesman Army Col. Rob Manning said American defense officials had not received orders to start withdrawing.

"Peace talks with the Taliban continue, but (the Defense Department) has not received

a directive to change the force structure in Afghanistan," Manning said.

Hanafi said both the U.S. and the Taliban would create technical committees that "will work on a timetable for the withdrawal of remaining troops."

Pentagon officials say they have no orders to withdraw troops. But in anticipation of such an order in the future, given the Trump administration's achievement of what it calls a "framework" for potential peace negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government, military planners have been considering plans for how a pullout might be conducted.

The two-day talks in the Russian capital that wrapped up Wednesday sidelined the government of Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani.

Afghanistan's former president, Hamid Karzai, was involved in the meeting and

hailed the discussions, saying the participants shared a desire for peace and stability and opposition to foreign intervention.

"We are happy with the outcome of the meeting," Karzai said.

Speaking after the Moscow meeting, the head of the Taliban delegation, Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, said talks on the U.S. withdrawal were continuing.

"We are in negotiations with the American side and we are trying that the American forces should go out as soon as possible," Stanikzai said. "The timeline is not fixed so far, it is not agreed upon, but we are negotiating this."

Efforts to find a negotiated end to Afghanistan's longest war have accelerated since the September appointment of Zalmay Khalilzad as Washington's peace envoy. He has held several meetings with the Taliban.



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# World

## Images suggest Iran launched satellite despite US criticism

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)**—Iran appears to have attempted a second satellite launch despite U.S. criticism that its space program helps the country develop ballistic missiles, satellite images released Thursday suggest. Iran did not immediately acknowledge conducting such a launch.

Images released by the Colorado-based company DigitalGlobe show a rocket at the Imam Khomeini Space Center in Iran's Semnan province on Tuesday. Images from Wednesday show the rocket was gone with what appears to be burn marks on its launch pad.

It wasn't immediately clear if the satellite, if launched, made it into orbit.

In the images, words written in Farsi in large characters on the launch pad appeared to say in part "40 years" and "Iranian made," in different sections. That is likely in reference to the 40th anniversary of Iran's Islamic Revolution, which authorities have been celebrating

this month.

Iranian state media did not immediately report on the rocket launch, though such delays have happened in previous launches.

Iran has said it would launch its Doosti, or "friendship," satellite. A launch in January failed to put another satellite, Payam or "message," into orbit after successfully launching it from the same space center.

DigitalGlobe analysts said the images from Tuesday suggest Iran used a Safir, or "ambassador," rocket in the launch. In the January launch, engineers used a Simorgh, or "phoenix," rocket. It wasn't immediately clear what prompted the rocket choice.

The Doosti, a remote-sensing satellite developed by engineers at Tehran's Sharif University of Technology, was to be launched into a low orbit.

The U.S. alleges such launches defy a U.N. Security Council resolution call-

ing on Iran to undertake no activity related to ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

Iran, which long has said it does not seek nuclear weapons, maintains its satellite launches and rocket tests do not have a military component. Tehran

also says they don't violate a United Nations resolution that only "called upon" it not to conduct such tests.

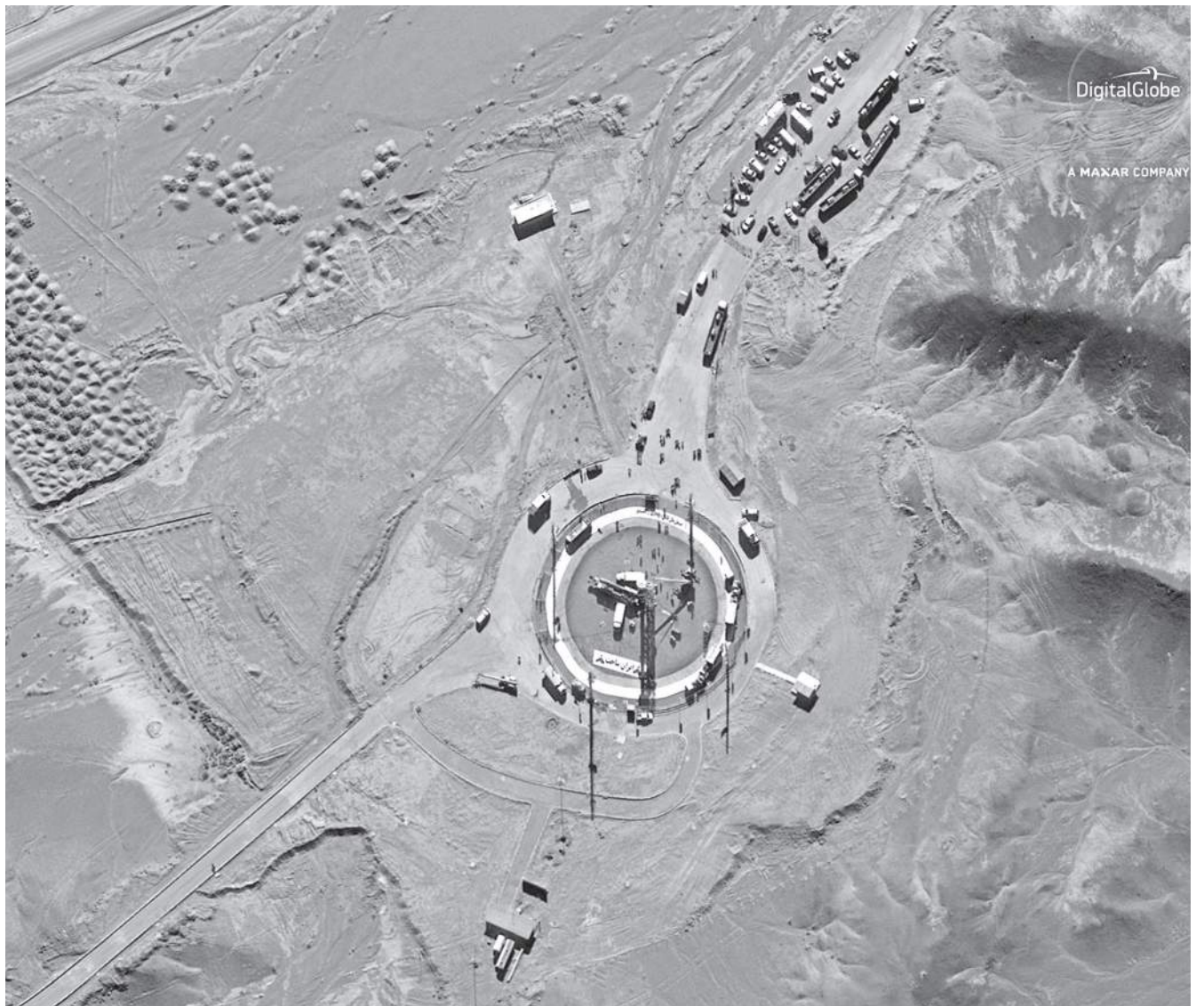
Over the past decade, Iran has sent several short-lived satellites into orbit and in 2013 launched a monkey into space.

Iran usually displays space

achievements in February during the anniversary of its 1979 Islamic Revolution. This year's 40th anniversary comes amid Iran facing increasing pressure from the U.S. under the administration of President Donald Trump.

The likely launch also

comes after a Iran's Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi reportedly said Sunday that three researchers died "because of a fire in one of the buildings of the Space Research Center," without elaborating.



This Feb. 5, 2019, satellite image provided by DigitalGlobe shows a missile on a launch pad and activity at the Imam Khomeini Space Center in Iran's Semnan province. AP

## Vatican clarifies pope on issue of 'sexual slavery' of nuns

**VATICAN CITY (AP)**—The Vatican on Wednesday clarified comments by Pope Francis about a case of what he called "sexual slavery" within a French congregation of nuns, saying he was referring to an abuse of power that was reflected in instances of sexual abuse.

Francis cited the case when responding to a question about the sexual abuse of nuns by clergy during a press conference Tuesday returning home from the United Arab Emirates. It was the pope's first-ever public acknowledgment of the problem of priests and bishops sexually abusing nuns. He stressed that the Vatican had been confronting the issue for some time and vowed to do more.

Vatican spokesman Alessandro Gisotti said Wednesday Francis "spoke of 'sexual slavery' to mean 'manipulation' or a type of abuse of power that is reflected in a sexual abuse."

The Community of St. Jean admitted in 2013 that its late founder had behaved "in ways that went against chastity" with women in the order, according to the French Catholic newspaper La Croix. The Vatican under Pope Benedict XVI ultimately dissolved an offshoot of the congregation.

The issue has come to the fore amid the Catholic Church's overall reckoning with the sexual abuse of mi-

nors and the #MeToo-inspired acknowledgement that adults can be victims of abuse whenever there is an imbalance of power in a relationship. In the past year, The Associated Press and other media have reported on cases of abused nuns in India, Africa, Europe and South America—evidence that the problem is by no means limited to a certain geographic area.

In November, the organization representing all the world's female Catholic religious orders, the International Union of Superiors General, publicly denounced the "culture of silence and secrecy" that prevented nuns from speaking out and urged sisters to report abuse to their superiors and police. And just last week, the women's magazine of the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano identified the clerical culture of the all-powerful clergy as the culprit.

The magazine, "Women Church World," noted that the scandal involves a corollary: nuns being forced to abort the priests' children or bear children that the priests refuse to recognize.

Francis' acknowledgement of the problem comes as he prepares to decide the fate of the disgraced American ex-cardinal, Theodore McCarrick, who is accused of abusing minors as well as adult seminarians.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Istanbul building collapse kills 2; rescuers save 6 others

**ISTANBUL (AP)**—An eight-story building collapsed in Istanbul on Wednesday, killing at least two people, Turkish officials said. Rescue workers pulled six others out of the rubble and were working to free more who were trapped. The building, which had 43 people living in 14 apartments, had a street-level ground floor and seven higher floors, Istanbul Gov. Ali Yerlikaya said, adding that the top three floors had been built illegally. It was not immediately clear how many people were trapped in the wreckage. Former Prime Minister Binali Yildirim told reporters at the site that six people were pulled out of the rubble alive and rescuers had made contact with four others still inside the wreckage. "Rac-

ing against time, the teams are working, making great sacrifices," said Yildirim, the current parliament speaker who is running for mayor of Istanbul in Turkey's March 31 local elections.

#### Ukraine's exiled ex-president claims possible vote rigging

**MOSCOW (AP)**—Ukraine's exiled former president, who was found guilty of fueling a deadly separatist conflict in the east, on Wednesday claimed there could be possible vote rigging in the country's upcoming presidential election. Ukrainians will vote March 31 to elect a new president. Former President Viktor Yanukovich fled the country in February 2014 following months of anti-government protests. Weeks later, Russia used his appeal to send troops to Ukraine as a justification

for annexing the Crimean peninsula. Yanukovich, 68, spoke to the press Wednesday in Moscow, breaking more than a year of silence. He would not endorse any of the over 30 Ukrainian presidential candidates but accused President Petro Poroshenko of plotting vote rigging. He offered no proof for his claims. "Authorities are going to do everything in their power and use all of its powers, including various tricks, to rig the voting, because President Poroshenko cannot win without vote rigging," Yanukovich told reporters in his first public appearance since 2017.

#### Romania detains Italian man who posed as plastic surgeon

**BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)**—Romanian police on Wednesday detained an Ital-

ian man who allegedly posed as a plastic surgeon in clinics around Bucharest, doing dozens of operations including breast implants. Border police detained Matteo Politi on a train on the Romanian-Hungarian border early Wednesday after an alert went out and he was brought to Bucharest. A statement said he was being investigated for fraud. Politi, 38, who used the alias Matthew Mode and claimed he was British, had been operating in several private clinics in the Romanian capital. But the College of Medics said Tuesday that it hadn't issued Politi with a license to practice. Romanian health authorities, who must also issue a separate permit for doctors, say he was given one in March 2018 after submitting a fake diploma claiming that he'd qualified as a doctor in Kosovo.



## Focus



AP  
South Korean college students stand with a portrait of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a rally to welcome his possible visit to South Korea, in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says he is sending a team "someplace in Asia" to set up a second summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un by the end of February. The signs read "We welcome North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's visit."

# Analysis: Is KIM JONG UN really ready to make a deal?

By ERIC TALMADGE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**TOKYO** (AP)—President Donald Trump used his biggest stage of the year to announce a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Trump said in his State of the Union address that he intends to meet Kim on Feb. 27-28 in Vietnam, saying that although much work remains to be done toward peace on the Korean Peninsula, his relationship with Kim is a good one.

But is Kim really ready to make a deal?

Here's why the stakes will be higher this time around.

## LOWERING EXPECTATIONS

Trump's announcement of the summit's timing and location was expected. He had been teasing it for weeks. But he kept his North Korea remarks surprisingly short.

After dramatically asserting

that if he hadn't been elected president, the U.S. and North Korea would be fighting a major war now, he acknowledged that much work remains to be done. That's quite a shift from his claim right after his June summit with Kim in Singapore that the nuclear threat from the North was over.

The president's tune changed in other ways as well.

The word denuclearization was nowhere to be found. Neither was anything specific about what he achieved in Singapore or what specifically he intends to get out of another meeting.

Trump is smart to give himself a lot of wiggle room.

U.S. intelligence chiefs believe there is little likelihood Kim will voluntarily give up his nuclear weapons or missiles capable of carrying them.

Nevertheless, efforts to nail down the logistics and an agenda for the summit do appear to be on track. Just before Trump spoke, the U.S. special envoy for North Korea, Ste-

phen Biegun, reportedly flew to Pyongyang to try to flesh out summit logistics and an agenda.

## GOOD REASON FOR CAUTION

After a year of heightening threats, and in sharp contrast with the standoffish policies of President Barack Obama, Trump got a lot of credit for simply being willing to open a dialogue with the North and to meet directly with Kim.

Trump's claim that he has played a big role in calming things down is also true, though he helped raise those tensions to begin with through his inflammatory rhetoric and policy of "maximum pressure" to further squeeze the North's economy and isolate it from the global financial system.

But now that the ice has been broken, just sitting down with Kim won't likely win Trump more kudos.

Previous presidents refused to meet with Kim and his predecessors because they did

not want to legitimize them or bolster their status. Kim got all that and more in Singapore.

Trump needs to prove his relationship with Kim has a purpose that goes beyond photo ops. In his speech, Trump stressed that the North has returned Americans who had been jailed and has not launched any long-range missiles in 15 months.

Kim announced all of that before the Singapore summit, however.

There's a real risk this time around that if Trump can't nail down a significant win on the denuclearization front, he could find himself working in direct opposition to his own main objective. Instead of getting Kim to give up his nukes, any tacit acceptance of the status quo could embolden Kim to dig in further as the leader of the world's newest nuclear power.

## KIM'S MULTIPLE TARGETS

In the hope of getting sanc-

tions relief and possibly a peace treaty to formally end the Korean War, Kim has offered Trump some goodies. He has suggested he is willing to dismantle some nuclear and missile-related facilities, and as Trump pointed out, has maintained his self-proclaimed moratorium on nuclear and long-range missile testing.

But he has been careful not to put all his eggs in Trump's basket.

Rebuilding ties with South Korea and China is the cornerstone of Kim's bigger strategy. He has already met Chinese leader Xi Jinping four times and South Korean President Moon Jae-in three times.

Kim has an immediate interest in wooing the Chinese and South Koreans. He wants investment and trade to bolster his economy and help fund infrastructure projects. Beijing and Seoul are already suggesting they believe sanctions against the North should be eased sooner rather than later,

despite the Trump administration's stance that denuclearization must come first.

Weakening Seoul's security alliance with Washington is another of Kim's goals.

He scored big in Singapore when Trump agreed to put off joint military exercises with the South, and again when Trump started publicly questioning the value of such exercises and demanding Seoul pay a bigger share of the cost of its own national defense.

Seoul just agreed to boost its share, so that's a win for Trump. But the reportedly rancorous process appears to have also undercut the South's confidence in Washington.

The biggest annual U.S.-South Korea exercise, meanwhile, is normally held in March or April. It was postponed and scaled down last year to ease tensions during the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics.

U.S. officials have said it will likely be scaled down this year as well.



# Off the Wall

## Bangkok flies drones as PM warns of costs in pollution fight

**BANGKOK (AP)**—A fleet of drones, trucks and small planes sprayed water to try to reduce air pollution around Bangkok on Thursday while the city’s governor invited critics to brainstorm better ideas to improve the air quality in the Thai capital.

Unhealthy pollution levels forced city schools to close Wednesday for the rest of week, and many residents are wearing air-filtering masks while they’re outdoors.

Faced with public discontent as well as a possible health crisis, Bangkok’s governor, Police Gen. Asawin Kwanmuang, has declared the city a “pollution control zone,” allowing firmer measures such as road closings and limits on diesel exhaust, outdoor burning and construction activities.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha ordered inspections of factories to measure the pollution they are emitting.

But he warned that implementing radical solutions could cause inconveniences that people might be unwilling to accept.

“To ban vehicles or to ban vehicles on odd and even dates, will people accept that?” he said. “If we provide (more public) transportation, will people use it?”

Even long-term measures raise questions, he said. “At the moment, we can improve the efficiency of cars and convert buses to use NGV gas. Are we ready to spend the budget for whatever it will cost?”

The measures proposed this week would focus on what are generally considered the main sources of Bangkok’s air pollution, particularly vehicle exhaust, especially from diesel engines. Open burning and emissions from factories and power plants also are major problems, along with dust from construction sites.

Some scientists have speculated that smoke and haze from Thailand’s less-developed eastern neighbor, Cambodia, also drifted into Bangkok, stirring up a bit of eco-nationalism, but the government’s Pollution Control Department said evidence did not support this theory. Parts of northern Thailand, however, do suffer an annual air pollution crisis due to fires from slash and burn agriculture and other causes in remote rural areas and in another neighbor, Myanmar.

In Bangkok, the crisis-level pollution, along with public awareness, has been spurred by meteorological events that trap the noxious pollution. These include a thermal inversion, which keeps the dangerous particles closer to the ground, and weak winds which fail to blow them away.

Governor Asawin acknowledged that drones aren’t a long-term solution but said he thinks



A drone is flown over the Suthat Temple in Bangkok, Thailand, Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019.

every bit of effort helps. At a news conference, he said critics calling the drones a meaningless stunt would otherwise

criticize him for doing nothing. Asawin invited private-sector experts and academics to share ideas to improve air quality.

“Those who are knowledgeable on this issue, don’t give opinions to others, tell me. I am the one who is working on the issue, please give me advice,” he said. “Do I know everything? No, I don’t. Because I do not know everything, that’s why I will hold a meeting (Thursday). Please join us in brainstorming.”

Critics say the authorities’ attempt to combat pollution by using drones to spray water is ineffective.

## Elephant seals take over California beach during shutdown

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—A colony of elephant seals took over a beach in Northern California during the government shutdown when there was no staff to discourage the animals from congregating in the popular tourist area, an official said.

Now they’re not going anywhere.

About 60 adult seals that gave birth to 35 pups took over a beach in Point Reyes National Seashore, knocking down a fence and moving into the parking lot, the San Francisco Chronicle reported Wednesday.

The park north of San Francisco is home to a colony of about 1,500 elephant seals that tend to frequent another beach with 100-foot-tall (30 meter) cliffs that keep the animals protected and mostly hidden from the public, said park spokesman John Dell’Osso.

Dell’Osso said it’s likely recent storms and high tides inundated the animal’s normal habitat with water and so they sought a wider swath of dry land around the corner.

“Sometimes you go out with tarps and you shake the tarps and it annoys them and

they move the other direction,” he said.

But since nobody was at work to address the seal migration, the animals took over. One seal even ventured under a picnic table near a cafe, the newspaper reported. The elephant seals were lounging in the sand after the park reopened Sunday, leading staff to temporarily close the road to the beach.

Officials have no plans to move the animals while some of them nurse their pups.

Staff is considering offering guided tours of the elephant colony, Dell’Osso said.

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### Voters reject plan to name streets in German municipality

**BERLIN (AP)**—Voters in a municipality in northwestern Germany have delivered a clear message: no street names, thanks. Official results from a referendum held on Sunday showed 60 percent of voters in Hilgermissen rejected the local council’s plan to name the streets, while 40 percent supported the proposal. The proposed change was intended to make it easier for people — including police, emergency and delivery services — to find their way around the municipality of some 2,200 residents. Hilgermissen was formed in the 1970s out of several villages. Addresses currently consist of a house number and the name of a former village, a system that has become more unwieldy as new buildings are added. Three locals organized the referendum to oppose street names. Sunday’s result is binding for two years.

#### ‘It’s too cold!’ Mr. Hot Dog says no school in South Dakota

**PARKER, S.D. (AP)**—A South Dakota school district is using a talking hot dog to announce closures due to the extreme cold. In a video posted to the Parker School District’s Facebook page, Mr. Hot Dog says: “I’m a hot dog!

I need some heat! I’m not a cold dog! ... You cannot have school! It’s too cold outside.” Mr. Hot Dog—complete with eyes, teeth, a bun and mustard—says he spoke with Superintendent Donovan DeBoer and that school will be closed Wednesday. Mr. Hot Dog suggested students can instead watch Netflix or bake a cake, but “No Fortnite !” DeBoer told the Argus Leader that he created the video using Snapchat.

#### Vegetable oil vandals delay classes at New Mexico school

**EUNICE, N.M. (AP)**—A New Mexico high school was forced to delay classes after authorities say vandals poured vegetable oil throughout the hallways. The Hobbs News-Sun reports the oil was poured at Eunice High School in the small city of Eunice late Sunday and forced janitors to clean up the mess Monday morning. Principal Tracy Davis says surveillance cameras captured six people wearing black clothing with hoodies and gloves pouring the vegetable oil on floors. Davis says they got into the school through an unlocked classroom window. Officials alerted parents and students via social media that classes were delayed until the oil was cleaned up. No arrests have been made. Eunice is in southeastern New Mexico near the state line with Texas.

In celebration of her new life

*† Regina Juliana Castro Elyeisar*

“Reina/Rene”

June 7, 1967 – February 3, 2019

**Husband:** †Kintino K. Elyeisar

**Mother:** †Rosa Omar Tanin Castro

**Fathers:** †Francisco Manibusan Castro

†Adalbert Mendiola Semens

**Rear Mothers:** †Florencia Omar Sarapau

†Margarita Omar Sarapau

**Rear Father:** †Joaquin Rufak Sarapau

**Father In-Law:** †Kaltino K. Elieisar

**Aunties:** †Rosario Omar Camacho

†Juliana Omar Tanin

**God Father:** †Felipe Iguel Ruak

**Sister:** †Concepcion Misa Guiao

**Brothers:** †Isidro Misa

†Marcelino Omar Tanin

**Cousins:** †Simeon Omar Camacho

†Antonio Omar Camacho

†Francisco Omar Camacho

†Magdalena Omar Camacho

†Philemon Omar Sarapau

*Regina’s love and memories will forever live in the hearts of her:*

**Children:** **Elfleda Rose** & Jesse John Santos  
(Alexandria Abigail, Chelsea Jessel, Jesse John Jr.)

**Jackeline Rose** & Hubert Agulto (Reneissia Yovalin)

**Cassandra Lyn** (Hazell Rosa, Hailey Regina)

**Michael Jordan** & Laurese Mettao

**Margarett Josephine** & Moses Rios Jr.

**Therese Cecilia**

**Children at the Heart:** Neng Omar, Marcelino C. Tito, Manas Frank C. Tito, Sasha B. Camacho, Stalin R. Iderbei, Kathrine T. Dowai, Nobert T. Rios

**Sisters/Brother:** **Josepha T. Castro** (Aki Josh)

**Marcelina C.** & Marciano Tito (Kathrine (Antonia)), Marcelino, Florencita & Patrick (Victoria Rose, Elena Marie)

Manas Frank, Joaquin, Elizabeth Faustina

**Patrick S.** & Nadine (Isabella)

**Geradine M. Guiao** (PJ)

**Mother In-Law:** Teresia W. Elieisar

**God Mother:** Magdalena K. Ruak

**Sisters/Brother In-Law:** Kintirino Elieisar/ Kalsina Patis & children

Kolynda Elieisar & son

Kaltery Elieisar/ Gabriel Pillias & children

Kalitos Elieisar/ Perpetua Semwen & children

Kuentina Elieisar/ Yun Smith & children

Kalesia Elieisar/ Rickson Beset & children

Daily mass of intention is being offered at Nuestra Señora Bithen Delos Remedios Church in Tanapag at 6:00 p.m. followed by Holy Rosary at 7:30 p.m.

On Sunday, February 10, 2019 at 3:00 p.m., her body will be taken out from the CHC morgue and will be escorted to her residence in Tanapag for overnight viewing.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, February 11, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at Nuestra Señora Bithen Delos Remedios Church followed by Interment Services at Tanapag Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest.

*Thank you, Gbilisow, and Si Yu’us Ma’ase*

**The Family**



# Science & Technology

## Apple is hurrying to fix FaceTime bug that allowed eavesdropping

By JIM PUZZANGHERA and  
JOHANA BHUIYAN  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The FaceTime video-chat app on your iPhone may have let people eavesdrop on you — an embarrassment to Apple Inc., which yanked the flawed feature and said Tuesday that it's hurrying to fix the underlying problem.

An apparent bug in Face-

Time's new group chat function allowed callers to remotely activate the microphone on another person's iPhone, iPad or Mac without that person's knowledge and hear whatever sounds the microphone picked up.

More than a week ago, a Twitter user — described by consumer technology website CNET as a Tuscon lawyer named Michele Thompson — said that her teenage son had

found the problem and that she'd submitted a bug report to Apple. The user's tweets flagged Apple customer service, Fox News and, a day later, Apple Chief Executive Tim Cook, and they expressed frustration about not hearing back from the company.

Then others on social media began posting videos demonstrating how to use the FaceTime app to eavesdrop, and

this Monday, technology news website 9to5Mac published an article about the problem.

Following the report, Apple disabled FaceTime's group chat function Monday evening and said it was working on a patch. "We're aware of this issue and we have identified a fix that will be released in a software update later this week," it said in a statement.

Apple did not immediately

respond to a Times email asking when the company became aware of the bug.

The problem is a black eye for Apple, which has promoted itself as being more conscientious about user privacy than rival tech giants. On Monday, before news of the bug exploded, Cook noted in a tweet that it was Data Privacy Day and that everyone should "insist on action and reform for vital privacy protections. The dangers are real and the consequences are too important."

Apple's system status page on Tuesday indicated that that "Group FaceTime is temporarily unavailable." That "ongoing issue" with the service began Monday night, according to the status page.

Before Apple yanked the buggy feature, the eavesdropping process involved placing a FaceTime video call and then adding your own phone number as an additional participant while the call was dialing. A group FaceTime call would start at that point, and the microphone on the device of the call's original recipient would be activated even if that person hadn't accepted the call.

Additionally, if the recipient of the call pressed the power button, they would unknowingly send a live video feed to

the caller. The Times independently replicated the feature Monday evening before it was pulled.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said the bug was "an egregious breach of privacy" and, in a statement, called on Apple to fix the problem "without delay." He also urged New Yorkers "to disable their FaceTime app until a fix is made available."

Apple says protecting user data is baked into its business model: Unlike Facebook Inc., Alphabet Inc.'s Google and other tech giants, Apple gets most of its revenue from selling hardware to consumers, not from selling targeted advertising space to third parties. Therefore, Apple contends, people don't have to worry that it will peddle their personal data to boost ad revenue.

Apple does admit to collecting information about users' behavior to improve some of its features. But the company says it aggregates and "scrambles" millions of users' data together to look for general patterns, not specific individuals' traits.

"These patterns help us identify things like the most popular emoji, the best Quick-Type [predictive text] suggestions, and energy consumption rates in Safari," Apple says on its website.

## Facebook let children rack up huge bills in games in 'friendly fraud'

By ETHAN BARON  
THE MERCURY NEWS

In Facebook parlance, children racking up huge bills by making purchases in Facebook-based games using their parents' credit cards were—like big spenders in Las Vegas—"whales."

The children's transactions that led to revenue for the Menlo Park social media giant? "Friendly fraud," according to the company.

To parents who complained about surprisingly huge credit-card bills after their children built up big game expenses, Facebook had this to say, in so many words: "Forget it."

That's all according to a new report on documents released from a class-action lawsuit by aggrieved parents. Although Facebook settled the suit in 2016, journalism outlet Reveal successfully argued in court that sealed material from the case should be made public.

"Facebook was aware that underage children routinely used their parents' payment information to spend large

sums of money on in-game purchases, and the company chose not to fix the problem. For years, it allowed for what it called "friendly fraud" because it feared implementing protections would harm revenue, according to the documents," tech website Gizmodo reported. "The documents come from 2010-2014 and demonstrate that Facebook was well aware of kids were playing simple games like Angry Birds and purchasing virtual items without their parents' knowledge."

A Facebook employee responding to Angry Birds maker Rovio's concerns about refund requests from parents emailed colleagues to say that nearly all the parents knew their children were playing the game, but didn't think they could make purchases within it without parental approval, a released document showed.

Documents that showed Facebook employees discussed whether to refund money to parents when it was obvious that a child had used its parents' payment infor-

mation without the parents' knowledge, according to Gizmodo.

"In one such case, two employees discuss charges amounting to \$6,545 and acknowledge that the child claims to be 15 years old but looks younger," the website reported. "The child is referred to as a 'whale,' a term used to indicate a user who is a big spender."

The parents' request was denied, according to the report.

In 2011, a Facebook risk analyst flagged the issue, concluding that children things within games using their parents' payment information—stored by the company after an initial purchase—didn't know what they were doing, Gizmodo reported.

She came up with a potential fix—requiring input of

the first six digits of a credit card for payments in certain games—and suggested Facebook start issuing refunds for blatant cases of "friendly fraud," the site reported.

"Facebook decided that it would harm revenue and elected to continue fighting refund requests for the foreseeable future, the documents show," according to Gizmodo.

Facebook told the tech site that it voluntarily unsealed some documents related to the issue after Reveal contacted the firm, and then produced more documents to comply with a court order.

"We routinely examine our own practices, and in 2016 agreed to update our terms and provide dedicated resources for refund requests related to purchases made by minors on Facebook," the company said.

## TECH Q & A: Missing e-mail photo is still there

**Q: When I receive an e-mail containing an embedded photo (a picture within the text of the message), I can't see the photo. In its place is a box with a red X in the corner. The only way I can see the picture is to copy the blank box and paste it into Microsoft Word. I use the Outlook e-mail program contained in Microsoft Office 365. How can I fix this?**

**A:** As you discovered, the photos aren't gone, just temporarily invisible. It probably happens because Outlook is using a corrupted "temporary internet file" that stores Web data.

To fix the problem, open Control Panel and click on "internet options." In the resulting menu, click on "settings." In the next menu, click on "view files." This calls up File Explorer, and it's displaying the contents of a folder called "INetCache." Something in INetCache has become corrupted, but you have no way to know what it is. As a result, its best to get rid of the

entire folder (doing so won't harm Windows.)

But rather than delete the folder, move it to your Windows Desktop in case you later need some data from it. (Windows won't be able to locate the folder at its new location, so it's as good as deleted.)

To move the folder to the desktop, go to the upper left corner of File Explorer and click the "up arrow." File Explorer will now display the contents of the Windows folder, and within it you'll see that the "INetCache" folder is highlighted.

Now, reduce File Explorer to about half the size of your screen by going to the top right corner and clicking the icon of two squares, one on top of the other (click the square icon to expand again.) Now, drag the INetCache folder from File Explorer to your PC's Desktop.

When you receive e-mails in the future, any embedded photos should be visible.

**Q: I've been trying to con-**

By STEVE ALEXANDER  
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.



**nect my new HP Envy 5055 All-in-One Printer to my new Chromebook computer. The printing works, but the image scanning does not. What can I do?**

**A:** Try using an HP printer function called "WebScan," which transfers scanned images from the printer to the Chromebook's browser (see tinyurl.com/y72vdoxk).

If WebScan doesn't work, you have two options:

■ Scan images to a flash drive or an SD memory card connected to the printer (you must select the flash drive or card option in the "Scan" control panel menu.) Then move the memory device to the Chromebook.

■ Look in your printer's

"Apps" or "Scan" menus to see if it is able to transmit scanned images directly to your e-mail account or to the Google Drive online storage service. (To use your printer with Google Drive, see tinyurl.com/y8v5eu27).

**Q: I set up a Microsoft account that requires me to use a PIN (personal identification number) every time I log into my PC. How can I get rid of this PIN requirement?**

**A:** Switch your PC's login from your online Microsoft account to a "local" (your PC only) account (see "Step 1" at tinyurl.com/y8ervel8). You'll be asked to set up a local password. If you'd rather not have a password, leave the password box empty.

**Science Matters**

### Disease severe but not likely to doom devils

A contagious cancer that has devastated Australia's famous Tasmanian devil populations in recent years is unlikely to drive the little marsupial mammals into extinction, new research indicates.

A healthy Tasmanian devil, a dog-sized nocturnal scavenger

Mainland Extinct for 600 years

Tasmania Last remaining population

About 80% of wild devils have died of the disease

Enough will probably survive to carry on

1 Over 10 years, researchers measured shrinking devil populations

2 Analysis based population genetics, showed that devils' decline is likely to slow and stop with healthy survivors

Hundreds of devils, genetically resistant to the cancer, have been isolated to repopulate island after disease lifts

Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumor Disease is transmitted by diseased cells through contact between animals. Tumor blocks devil's breathing and eating

Loud, 'devil-like' behavior is a bluff the animal uses when feeding

Source: Konstantinos Wells of Swansea University (AUS) Ecology journal; Stephan Schuster and Webb Miller of Penn State University; Vanessa Hayes of Venter Institute  
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service



# Life & Style

## R. Kelly says he'd tour internationally, then deletes post

NEW YORK (AP)—R. Kelly said Tuesday he is planning an international tour, but an Australian lawmaker wants the country to bar him from performing there if the concert plan goes forward.

The embattled musician announced on social media Tuesday that he'll be going to Australia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka, but the tweet was later deleted.

"See y'all soon" the post said, accompanied by a pic-

ture of Kelly and the declaration "The King of R&B." No dates or venues were revealed.

The tour tweet was deleted following a backlash from Twitter users who urged fans not to buy concert tickets and criticized the announcement, pointing out the irony that "R. Kelly is going on tour instead of jail." No new criminal charges have been filed against Kelly since the most recent alleged sexual misconduct was brought to light. Several pre-

vious cases have been settled out of court. In 2008, he was found not guilty in a trial on child pornography charges.

Kelly's career has been stifled since a #MuteRKelly campaign gained momentum last year to protest his alleged sexual abuse of women and girls, which Kelly denies. Lifetime's documentary series "Surviving R. Kelly" last month drew even more attention to the allegations, and his record label has reportedly dropped him.

## BAFTA suspends Bryan Singer nod amid misconduct allegations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The British Academy of Film and Television Arts says it is suspending its nomination of director Bryan Singer amid accusations that he sexually assaulted minors.

Singer had been among those nominated for his work on the Queen biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody," which he was fired from in late 2017.

BAFTA says Wednesday that the organization considers the alleged behavior unacceptable and incompatible with its values and that Singer has been informed of the suspension.

The Atlantic magazine last month published an expose detailing the stories of



Singer

four alleged victims who said they were seduced and molested by the Singer while underage. Singer has denied the allegations.

The film and others nominated for it will remain eligible for BAFTAs, which will be presented Sunday.

## Inmate freed with help by Kim Kardashian West gets book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—An inmate whose life sentence was commuted thanks in part to the efforts of Kim Kardashian West has a book deal, along with deals for film and television rights.

Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, announced Wednesday that Alice Marie Johnson's "After Life: My Journey From Incarceration to Freedom" comes out May 21. Kardashian West contributed a foreword to what Harper is calling an "honest,

faith-driven memoir" and a "deep look into the systemic issue of mass incarceration." Film, television and "life rights" were sold to Endeavor Content and One Community.

"I feel humbled that the telling of my story gives hope and my years of pain were not in vain," Johnson said in a statement.

"My life has forever changed because of Alice Marie Johnson," Kardashian West said in statement. "Her story is a gift that will now reach so many

millions more through her book and film. I hope Alice's case is just the beginning of a movement to help those left behind. I am invested in continuing to support Alice and this cause."

Financial terms for Johnson's book and film and television deals were not disclosed.

Johnson, 63, served more than two decades of a life sentence without parole for non-violent offenses before President Donald Trump commuted her sentence last year.

Kardashian West personally lobbied him in the Oval Office, a meeting which Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner helped arrange. Last December, Trump signed bipartisan legislation that gives judges more discretion when sentencing some drug offenders and boosts prisoner rehabilitation efforts. On Tuesday night, Johnson was among those invited to sit with first lady Melania Trump and Trump family members at the State of the Union address.

## Spotify takes a big jump into the podcasting game

NEW YORK (AP)—Spotify is making a bigger bet on podcasts as it looks to bring a Netflix-like model of original programs to the audio world. The music-streaming pioneer gobbled up two podcasting companies, Gimlet and Anchor, on Wednesday.

Although streaming is becoming an increasingly popular way to listen to music, Spotify and other services such as Pandora have struggled to make money because of the royalties and other fees that they have to

pay recording labels, songwriters and performers.

The acquisitions are about "expanding our mission from just being about music to being about all of audio and being the world's leading audio platform," CEO Daniel Ek said in an interview on CNBC on Wednesday.

The company didn't disclose terms, but The Wall Street Journal cited people familiar with the transactions as saying Anchor, a podcast production and hosting platform, was

valued at more than \$150 million and Gimlet at more than \$200 million. Gimlet produces high-end podcasts and was co-founded by Alex Blumberg, a veteran of the NPR radio show "This American Life."

Spotify, which is based in Stockholm and went public in April 2018, charges \$10 a month for its "premium" ad-free music service. It also offers a free ad-supported service.

Apple has become Spotify's primary rival since the tech giant launched its own music

streaming service in 2015. But although it has been outgunned financially, Spotify has been able to stay a step ahead of Apple in terms of subscribers. It counted 96 million subscribers in the fourth quarter, up 36 percent from a year ago.

Meanwhile, Apple's music-streaming service has more than 50 million subscribers, according to CEO Tim Cook. Pandora, YouTube, iHeartRadio, Google, Amazon and others also offer music streaming and podcasts.



### DIVORCE DRESS

GWS AUCTIONS VIA AP

This undated image released by GWS Auctions shows a black dress that actress Marilyn Monroe wore to a 1954 press conference announcing her separation from baseball legend Joe DiMaggio. KruseGWS Auctions announced Wednesday that the simple wool dress with a zippered turtleneck front will be up for bidding starting on March 30. Monroe was wearing it in Beverly Hills on Oct. 6, 1954, when she stepped out amid a mob of cameras and reporters to announce the split in a marriage.

## Bathroom Peeping Tom stuns retirement home employee

DEAR ABBY: Something happened at work that has me traumatized. I work at a retirement house for a convent. The nuns are sweet, kind and easy to get along with. But last week while I was using the bathroom, a nun decided to be a Peeping Tom while I was on the toilet. She laughed at me in a taunting manner saying, "I can see you!" I screamed at her to stop, but she just kept looking and laughing at me. When she finally left, I was in shock.

I reported the nun to my supervisor as soon as I could, but later in the day I was still so humiliated and upset that I ended up having an anxiety attack. I can't stop thinking about it. It left me feeling disgusted with the nun and with myself.

I want to report her to the police, but I don't want drama at work. This is my only source of income. I need my job in order to provide for my kids, but I no longer feel comfortable working in a place where there are perverted nuns who don't respect people's privacy.

What do I do? I'm confused and angry, spending my days in my home crying and contemplating whether to file a police report. Please give me some advice.

TRAUMATIZED IN THE EAST

DEAR TRAUMATIZED: I hope you realize that the

behavior the retired nun exhibited is that of a 4-year-old. She may suffer from dementia. While the woman may have had good judgment in her younger years, clearly she does not now. It may be the reason she is living in that retirement community.

I'm curious about how your supervisor reacted when you told her what happened. If you cannot move beyond the trauma, talk to the director of the home and ask for counseling so you can regain some perspective. Filing a police report may not be the way to go.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are getting ready to retire. We are both employed and will have continued access to health insurance through our employers in retirement. My insurance covers her even if I predecease her, unless she remarries.

My wife now says she wants to carry her own health insurance because she feels she might want to remarry sometime after my death. Her new interest about remarrying bothers me, and I feel somewhat guilty about that.

What has me depressed is the question of who she would want to be buried beside—her new husband or me. We have been married for 38 years, and the possibility of having a final resting place without her seems very lonely and like I am being rejected. It almost feels like a divorce. These are thoughts and

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

feelings I can neither shake off nor rationalize. Your thoughts?  
LIFE GOES ON

DEAR LIFE GOES ON: Your wife is trying to keep her options open, which, although it isn't sentimental, makes sense. There are no guarantees that if you predecease her, she will be swept off her feet, so you may be worrying needlessly. If you haven't told her how you feel, it might put your mind at ease if you do.

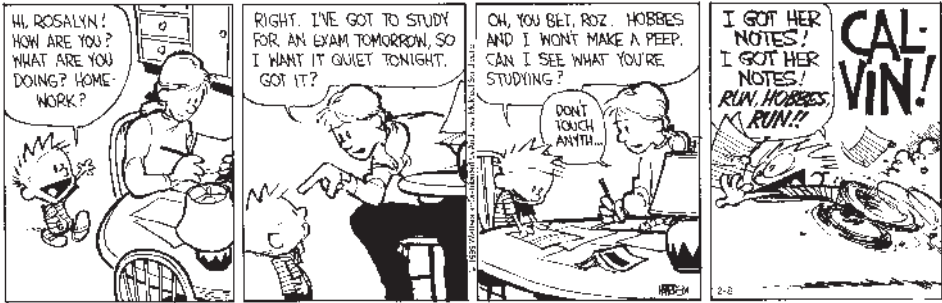
Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



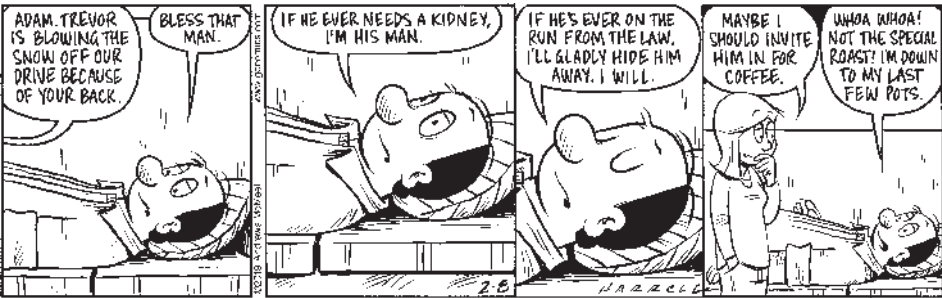
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



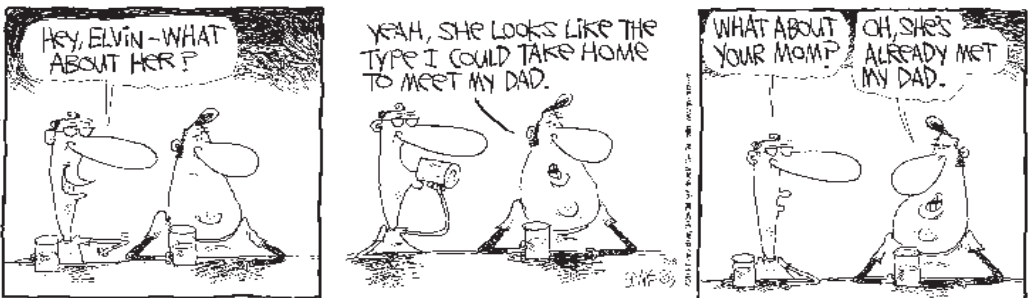
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Josh

4 Reggae relative

7 Paper packs

12 NYC airport

13 Stetson, e.g.

14 DeGeneres of talk TV

15 Einstein's birthplace

16 Every-body

18 As well

19 Orange variety

20 Region

22 I love (Lat.)

23 Mimicked

27 Billboards

29 Chip-munk's kin

31 "That's it!"

34 The Ram

35 Chap-erones, usually

37 Ring decision

38 Vanished

39 Pot brew

41 Tree home

45 Belly button type

47 Conk out

48 Fluctuating

52 Mil. bigwig

53 Craze

54 Rebel Turner

55 Swelled head

56 Fake

57 — cone

58 Aachen article

3 Matt of Holly-wood

4 "Scram!"

5 Sunflower

6 Top State

7 Actress Russo

8 Days of yore

9 Carte lead-in

10 Actor Gibson

11 NBC show since 1975

17 Awe-struck

21 National symbol

23 Chef's garb

24 Greek conso-nant

25 Shoe width

26 Hosp. workers

28 Speck

30 Sturdy tree

31 Satchel

32 Altar promise

33 Sister

36 Poker variety

37 Formosa, today

40 Short jackets

42 Moved sideways

43 Pro-longed attack

44 Choir member

45 Singer Anita

46 Within (Pref.)

48 Ref

49 Oom—

50 Year in Acapulco

51 French diarist Anaïs

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-8

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Seth Green, 45; Mary Steenburgen, 66; Robert Klein, 77; Nick Nolte, 78.

**Happy Birthday:** Stay focused this year. Don't let the little things get to you. Your strength will kick in if you keep busy and concentrate on what it is you want to change and achieve in your life. Don't sit on the sidelines when you should be expressing your ideas and taking the initiative of going after what you want. Your numbers are 3, 11, 19, 27, 30, 37, 46.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Emotions will surface if things don't go according to plan. Take a step back and rethink your next move before you make a mistake or say something you will end up regretting. It's best to get along and keep the peace. \*\*\*

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Take a closer look at yourself, your life and how you present yourself to the world. A couple of updates will lift your spirits and lead to compliments from someone special. A decision you make will point you in a better direction. \*\*\*

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Trust in your judgment, not what someone else wants you to believe. When dealing with love, contracts or joint financial matters, get the lowdown before making a decision. An offer won't be as good as it sounds. \*\*\*\*

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Work quietly on your own. If you let others get involved, you will end up losing control and things won't turn out as planned. Finish what

you start before you present what you have to offer. Don't let emotions take over. \*\*

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Look for something that excites you. Whether it's a new position, friend or interest, the experience will lead to personal growth and a change in the way you move forward. A partnership will encourage you to expand your mind and your skills. \*\*\*\*

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make plans to have fun with friends. Getting out will do you good and stir up feelings you haven't felt for some time. New beginnings are within reach, but sticking to a budget may be difficult. Monitor expenses carefully. \*\*\*

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Question your motives as well as the motives of those you are dealing with. Problems will arise if you or someone close to you isn't being truthful about what you want or how you feel. Emotions will flare up easily. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You need a distraction. A getaway or attending a reunion or family gathering will help you distance yourself from some of the personal issues you are faced with. Listen, and someone with experience will offer an interesting alternative. \*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll have too many options and not enough time to fulfill your promises. Plan out your schedule before you get caught off-guard with a reminder from someone you don't want to disappoint. A change will do you good. \*\*

**EUGENIA LAST**

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stick to what and who you know. Don't get sidetracked by someone making loud noises about something that is probably too good to be true. Back away from unpredictable people and situations. Avoid conflict by doing your own thing. \*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Open up a discussion. Explain your position and what you want to see unfold. Being straightforward and detailing your plan for someone in a position to help you will lead to victory. A romantic encounter will lift your spirits. \*\*\*

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Be careful not to take on too much or make a promise you won't want to keep. Practicing a minimalist approach to life will be beneficial when someone pressures you to indulge in something you shouldn't. Take good care of your health. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are outgoing, interesting and original. You are energetic and flexible. To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit [EugeniaLast.com](http://EugeniaLast.com), or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

**SUDOKU**

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 2/08

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**WONDERWORD** By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CHIMES Solution: 10 letters

T T B L O W N M N G N I W S S  
U N R A M O V E M E N T S D E  
B E E C M O P T C C D U O I I  
E M E M I B S A I L Y R H N D  
S A Z C U S O L C A A A A G O  
O N E S N R U O H N L P L G L  
U R E Y H W T M A G C N P P E  
N O L W P E O S I R W D D E M  
D O O R B E L L N A N E O G R  
N O A E R C C L L I N A N U A  
D H L R O C E D W O R A G S L  
S L S P N E E R T U H O O K U  
S Y P E Z I S S A L G N I R B  
I E E D E D N E P S U S O N U  
R R E K I R T S H T G N E L T

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Aura, Bamboo, Bells, Blown, Breeze, Bronze, Chain, Clang, Clapper, Clay, Copper, Decor, Ding, Dong, Doorbell, Garden, Glass, Hang, Hollow, Hook, Hung, Instrument, Keys, Lawn, Lengths, Melodies, Metal, Movements, Music, Nylon, Ornament, Play, Ring, Rods, Sail, Sharp, Shell, Size, Sound, Stone, Striker, Suspended, Swing, Tree, Tubes, Tubular, Voice, Wind, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Fertilizer

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SECRETARY  
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Gualo Rai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Telephone Number: (670) 783-4226  
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- High School graduate with at least two (2) years experience in customer service.
- Must have strong administrative skills are required, as well as advanced computer skills including knowledge of MS word, Excel and power point.

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|           |      |
|-----------|------|
| ADS       |      |
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# Davis in trade limbo; Harris, Barnes shipped out



MIAMI (AP)—Anthony Davis is still a member of the New Orleans Pelicans.

By 3 p.m. Thursday, that may change.

Davis remained in place Wednesday, though the run-up to the NBA's annual trade deadline picked up steam in plenty of other locales around the league—including Dallas, where the Mavericks took Harrison Barnes out of their win over Charlotte in the third quarter because he's about to get moved to Sacramento, according to two people familiar with the negotiations there.

"I got word of it during the game," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said.

Tobias Harris going to Philadelphia from the Los Angeles Clippers as the centerpiece of a six-person, four-draft-pick swap was the first notable deal of Trade Deadline Eve. Later, Chicago agreed to acquire Otto Porter Jr. from Washington for Jabari Parker and Bobby Portis. The Mavs and Kings agreed to swap Barnes for Zach Randolph and Justin Jackson, and as the day was winding down the Wizards struck again—this time sending Markieff Morris to New Orleans for Wesley Johnson.

The Mavs-Kings and Wizards-Pelicans deals were confirmed to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity by people directly involved in the negotiations, all speaking on condition of anonymity pending the mandatory NBA trade deadline to make the deals official.

"Part of the business," New Orleans coach Alvin Gentry said.

And business, on Wednesday, was busy—as expected.

The Dallas-Sacramento deal will be significant for both sides.

The Kings are trying to get into the Western Conference playoffs, and now can add Barnes to their promising young core. Barnes has a \$25.1 million player option for next season. Meanwhile, Dallas—which got Kristaps Porzingis and Tim Hardaway Jr. from New York last week in a massive deal—will have tons of salary-cap space to spend in the coming months as it looks to add more pieces around Luka Doncic.

"Things are going to look different on the court," said Carlisle, who wished Barnes well and told him after Dallas' game that he believes the Sacramento deal is a good situation for him.

Harris, Boban Marjanovic and Mike Scott went to the 76ers, while Wilson Chandler, Mike Muscala and Landry Shamet went to the Clippers. Philadelphia—with an eye on



moving way up from the No. 5 spot in the Eastern Conference—also gave up a protected 2020 first-round pick, a 2021 first-rounder that was once owned by Miami, and second-rounders in 2021 and 2023 through Detroit.

"We are in the unique position to contend now and we think this trade positions us well for the postseason," 76ers

general manager Elton Brand said.

Porter will be headed to Chicago, with the Wizards taking back Parker and Portis. Parker has been bracing for a trade, and moving Porter is a financial win if nothing else for Washington. So is the move that sends Morris to the Pelicans, one that should get the Wizards out of having to

pay anything in luxury tax this season.

Another deal with tax ramifications was worked out between Miami and Phoenix. The Heat sent Tyler Johnson and Wayne Ellington to the Suns for Ryan Anderson, helping alleviate the logjam of guards that Miami coach Erik Spoelstra has been dealing with all season—plus con-

siderably lowering the Heat's expected luxury tax bill. It's likely that Ellington will be a buyout candidate, and therefore would be able to pick his own spot to finish the season.

"This business is tough but this kid is tougher," Heat guard Dwyane Wade wrote on Twitter, talking about Johnson. And later, he told Ellington he has "a brother for life."

## Warriors come out shooting, run past Spurs

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Kevin Durant wants everyone to forget the free agency chatter and speculation about where he might play next season, calling it "unnecessary." That's still months away and he is trying to win another championship with the Golden State Warriors.

The two-time reigning NBA Finals MVP wants no part of any association with the New York Knicks, either, though that has been a destination some consider a possibility for him.

KD says enough.

"I don't think about that type of stuff," Durant said. "I have nothing to do with the Knicks. I don't know who traded (Kristaps) Porzingis. They got nothing to do with me, I'm trying to play basketball."

Durant had 23 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, Klay Thompson scored 26 points and the Warriors ran away in the second and third quarters to rout the San

Antonio Spurs 141-102 on Wednesday night.

The two-time defending champions scored 49 points on 16 assists in the third quarter alone, making 5 of 7 3-pointers. They made 24 of 25 field goals in one blistering stretch spanning half-time—including 14 straight shots at one point.

Durant was right in the middle of the impressive display, and then took a few more shots after the game was over.

### Bucks 148, Wizards 129

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 43 points, Eric Bledsoe had 22 points and 11 assists, and the Bucks beat the Washington Wizards for their fifth consecutive victory.

The Bucks shot 60 percent (56 for 93) from the field and placed six players in double figures while becoming the first NBA team with 40 victories. Malcolm Brogdon had

18 points, and Khris Middleton finished with 16.

### Mavericks 99, Hornets 93

In Dallas, Luka Doncic scored 19 points in his third triple-double, Dorian Finney-Smith had 15 points and 10 rebounds and new-look Dallas made another move by trading Harrison Barnes while beating Charlotte.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 12 points in his Dallas debut after the blockbuster deal that brought Kristaps Porzingis from the New York Knicks.

### Nets 135, Nuggets 130

In New York, D'Angelo Russell had 27 points and 11 assists, and Brooklyn surpassed last season's win total by beating Denver.

Russell made six of the Nets' 19 3-pointers, one game after they made only five as a team in their poorest shooting performance of the season.

DeMarre Carroll added 18

points, 10 rebounds and six assists for Brooklyn (29-27).

### Pelicans 125, Bulls 120

In Chicago, Julius Randle scored 31 points, and New Orleans beat struggling Chicago with All-Star Anthony Davis watching from the bench.

Davis was healthy enough to return from a sprained left index finger that has sidelined him since Jan. 18. But the Pelicans opted to hold him out with Thursday's trade deadline approaching.

### Jazz 116, Suns 88

In Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell scored 21 points and Joe Ingles had a career-high 11 assists, leading the Utah Jazz to a victory over the Phoenix Suns.

Rudy Gobert added 16 points and 12 rebounds as Utah won for the fifth time in seven games. Ingles and reserve Royce O'Neale each finished with 15 points.

New Orleans Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry talks to guard Jrue Holiday (11) and forward Anthony Davis, in street clothes due to an injury, during the second half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Detroit Pistons in New Orleans, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019.

Meanwhile, Davis remained in place and out of uniform.

The Pelicans haven't played him since he and agent Rich Paul went public last week with their trade request, and decided not to play the six-time All-Star in Chicago on Wednesday either. The reasons for that were obvious; in case a deal can be made, it's not worth it for the Pelicans to risk an injury.

"It's going to eventually get resolved," Gentry said.

There will be resolution—maybe just partial resolution, but resolution nonetheless—when the deadline arrives Thursday afternoon. Davis is still under contract for next season, so the Pelicans are in a slippery spot where they don't need to deal their best player now for fear of losing him in July for nothing but also know that he doesn't want to remain in New Orleans.

If the Pelicans don't trade Davis by Thursday, they'll almost certainly be back in the depths of trade talks in June and July—draft time and free agency.

"I mean, obviously, it's on everyone's mind," Gentry said. "But we just try to put it on the back burner and focus on the task at hand and that's playing the Chicago Bulls. Not anything we can do about it. ... I think everything kind of clears up after (Thursday), at least for a while. And you can go back to I guess normal, or whatever our new normal is going to be."

In other trades Wednesday, a person familiar with the terms said NBA-leading Milwaukee was sending center Thon Maker to the Detroit Pistons for forward Stanley Johnson. Both were lottery picks, Johnson in 2015 and Maker a year later. That trade was also pending the NBA reviewing the financial terms and approving, which is required for any deal to become final.

The Los Angeles Lakers—one of the teams known to want Davis—made another deal, getting Reggie Bullock from the Detroit Pistons for rookie guard Svi Mykhailiuk. Bullock is a shooter, and Lakers star LeBron James loves surrounding himself with those. Bullock is making nearly 39 percent of his 3-point tries this season.

Philadelphia swung a deal with Toronto, getting Malachi Richardson and some draft considerations for cash.



# MLB, union propose drastic rule changes



**NEW YORK**  
(AP) — Major League Base-

ball and its players are discussing bold changes to spark the sport that include a three-batter minimum before a pitching change except at the start of an inning, a single trade deadline set before the All-Star break and expanded rosters.

The union renewed its push to extend the designated hitter to the National League, suggested amateur draft incentives for winning records and penalties for losing records and proposed a change in service-time rules that would lead to faster free agency for top rookies held in the minor leagues early in the season. Management proposed expanding minimum time on the disabled list and optional assignments to the minor leagues to 15 days.

The talks are an expansion of the ones last offseason in which management threatened to implement a pitch clock, then backed off but did institute limits on mound visits without pitching changes. Management made its proposal on Jan. 14, the union responded last Friday and discussions are ongoing.

Details were disclosed to The Associated Press by people familiar with the negotiations who spoke on condition of anonymity because no statements were authorized. Aspects of the proposals were first reported by The Athletic.

Management is concerned about a drop in offense that saw strikeouts exceed hits for the first time last year and the big league batting average drop to its lowest level since 1972. In a season that included an unusually cold and wet April, average attendance dropped for the third straight

season and fell below 30,000 for the first time since 2003.

Some of the most interesting changes appear likely to be put off until 2020 at the earliest.

## RELIEF PITCHERS

Management proposed that a team not be allowed to bring in a reliever until the previous pitcher has faced three batters or an inning ends. There were 1,145 one-batter outings last season, according to the Elias Sports Bureau, up from 1,119 the previous year but down from 1,182 in 2016. The change would have an impact on the use of "openers" for a few batters, a move pioneered by Tampa Bay manager Kevin Cash and emulated by Milwaukee manager Craig Counsell in Game 5 of the NL Championship Series, when he removed left-handed starter Wade Miley after one batter and replaced him with right-hander Brandon Woodruff.

Players countered the change should start in the minor leagues this year and reach the majors in 2020.

## DESIGNATED HITTER

The DH has been used in the AL since 1973, but the NL has never adopted the rule and Commissioner Rob Manfred has said he supports the status quo. The union proposed the DH start being used in the NL this year, but management in the past has considered the DH an economic issue, and Manfred has said that economic changes must wait for negotiations for a new labor contract that would start ahead of the 2022 season.

## PITCH CLOCKS

Management again has proposed a pitch clock, and the union countered with limita-



tions on its use.

## MOUND VISITS WITHOUT PITCHING CHANGES

A limit of six began last season, and management wants to lower that to four this season and three in 2020. The union countered with five this year and, if the average time of a nine-inning game is longer this year than last, then four in 2020.

## TRADE DEADLINE

Players proposed a single trade deadline be instituted before the All-Star break to keep teams from dealing veterans when the clubs conclude their chances of a playoff berth have dwindled. The deadline for trades without waivers was June 15 from 1923 through 1985 and has been July 31 since. Players who clear waivers can be dealt after the deadline, but they must be in an organization by Aug. 31 to be eligible for the postseason.

## ROSTER SIZE

Many have criticized the roster rules, which generally allow a team 25 active players through

Aug. 31 and then 40 until the end of the season. Management proposed allowing a 26-man roster, including a 12-pitcher maximum, through Aug. 31, and then up to 28 for the rest of the season. The union countered that each team should be required to have 28 active from Sept. 1 on and that there be a supplemental roster of four players after the Triple-A postseason ends. No starting pitchers would be allowed on the supplemental roster, and at least two of the four would have to be position players.

## ANTI-TANKING

Concerned that teams with small or no playoff chances put less of an emphasis on winning to get higher selections in the amateur draft, the union proposed that a team with 90 or more losses in consecutive years have its highest selection in the next amateur draft dropped 15 slots and lose \$2 million in international signing bonus pool allocation. A team with 90 or more losses in three straight years would drop 20 slots and lose \$3 million in allocation.

Clubs that reach the post-

season would be awarded additional draft picks in the competitive balance rounds.

## SERVICE TIME

A player in his debut season or with less than 30 days of major league service in the previous season would be credited with a full year of major league service if he finishes among the top three in voting for Rookie of the Year, Cy Young Award, MVP or Rivera/Hoffman reliever award; he wins World Series or League Championship Series MVP; or he is among the top three in Wins Above Replacement, or WAR, defined by the average of the Fangraphs and Baseball Reference calculations. Currently, 172 days during the 186-day season are needed to be credited for a year of major league service. The Chicago Cubs called up Kris Bryant in 2015 to leave him with exactly 171 days, sparking a grievance that remains unresolved.

## TWO-SPORT ATHLETES

Worried baseball may lose athletes such as Oakland outfielder Kyler Murray, the Heisman

<sup>AP</sup>  
In this Friday, Oct. 26, 2018 file photo, Boston Red Sox relief pitcher Joe Kelly throws against the Los Angeles Dodgers during the sixth inning in Game 3 of the World Series baseball game in Los Angeles.

Trophy-winning quarterback, players proposed two-sport athletes be able to sign major league contracts. Since 2012, all amateur free agents must sign minor league contracts.

## RUNNER ON SECOND BASE

Players are generally amenable to management's proposal to start the 10th and subsequent innings of spring training games and the All-Star Game with a runner on second, although in the All-Star Game they want a player who already has left the game to be eligible to be one of those runners.

## LOWERING PITCHER'S MOUND

The pitcher's mound was dropped from 15 inches to 10 for the 1969 season, and management wants to establish a committee to study whether it should be lowered again. The union wants the committee to include active players.

## INNING BREAKS

Players are willing discuss whether inning breaks can be shortened. Among the ideas suggested include using split screens that include commercials on broadcasts at the start of half-innings.

## MICROPHONES

Players propose better fan engagement by allowing additional broadcast microphones on players, possibly including two-way microphones.



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# Saipan Marathon qualifier for Boston Marathon

The 2019 Saipan Marathon set for March 9 has been certified by



the International Association of Athletic Federations and the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races, making it a qualifying event for the prestigious Boston Marathon.

"The Marianas can be very proud of our Saipan Marathon, which is on par with marathons around the nation and the world," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We would love to see representatives from our home-grown marathon go on to run the Boston Marathon. That would be a real milestone for Saipan Marathon."

## Early bird deadline today

Meanwhile, runners competing in next month's race need

to register today to avail of the best rates.

The annual Saipan Marathon features 10K, half marathon, and full marathon courses and is a signature event of the MVA. Registrants can link to online signup at the MVA official website at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com) or at [www.webscorer.com](http://www.webscorer.com). The international early bird registration fee for the full marathon (ages 16 and older allowed) is \$90 and for the half marathon and 10K is \$60. For U.S. and CNMI residents with valid photo ID showing proof of residency and who register by Feb. 8, the registration fees for the full marathon is \$55 and for the half marathon and 10K is \$45. Registrants are reminded to select their proper category, international or CNMI/U.S., on the website. Rates will increase after Feb. 8.



"Saipan Marathon 2019 is just a month away, and we hope all runners will avail of the early bird rate by registering by this Friday (Feb. 8),"

said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "Registering by Friday will also guarantee that their name is included in the official race

booklet. We're looking forward to a great turnout and encourage everyone to register early."

Runners will receive finish-

ers T-shirt, finishers medal, and entry to the awards banquet at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Joining the MVA as exclusive sponsors of this year's marathon are Skechers and Powerade. Platinum sponsor is IT&E. Gold sponsors are Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Silver sponsors are T Galleria by DFS, Tokyo Jusen, DEEN International, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, The Athlete's Foot, Boardline, and All Star Sporting Goods. Additional sponsors are Vladivostok International Ice Run and Skydive Saipan.

Aid stations will be manned by Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Development Inc., Kinpachi Restaurant, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Kanoa Resort, Coca-Cola/Foremost, Pacific Islands Club, Imperial Pacific Int'l CNMI, IT&E, Aqua Resort Club, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Tasi Tours Transportation, and Marianas Base Camp.

Supporting agencies and companies are American Memorial Park, Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Fire & Emergency Medical Services, Div. of Parks and Grounds, Dept. of Public Works, Dept. of Public Lands, Saipan Mayor's Office, Hawaiian Rock Products, and Marianas Health Services.

For more information, visit The Marianas Calendar at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com) or contact MVA Community Projects Division at 1-670-664-3210 or [communityprojects@mymarianas.com](mailto:communityprojects@mymarianas.com). (Saipan Tribune)

## Colts' Luck hopes healthy offseason leads to better results



**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)**—Andrew Luck spent three offseasons fighting his way back from injuries. Now he can reap the reward.

After returning to the field, making it back to the playoffs, regaining his Pro Bowl form and collecting The Associated Press NFL Comeback Player of the Year Award, a healthy Luck now intends to take a rare and well-deserved break from football.

"I'll be honest, I probably won't throw for a while," he said before cleaning out his locker. "There will be tweaks, there will be changes to what I do (this offseason) but all of it is geared to one, make me as happy as possible and two, set me up to improve as

a quarterback and improve as a person."

How Luck will spend his downtime is unclear.

Peyton Manning broke the monotony with hunting trips. Brett Favre worked on his ranch. Tom Brady won a Super Bowl after changing last year's offseason routine to spend more time with his family and less on football. They all learned throwing more balls doesn't necessarily make a better quarterback.

Matt Hasselbeck, a three-time Pro Bowler who backed up Favre and Luck during his 17-year career, became a believer. So after hearing a story about Manning meeting a former U.S. president one offseason, Hasselbeck accepted an offer from assistant coach Clyde Christensen to spend

time with a Navy admiral.

"He talked to us in our quarterback meeting one day about protecting the football because we'd had some issues and he used this analogy of what they tell Top Gun pilots," Hasselbeck said. "It was basically that you have this great plane you get to fly and it does not belong to you. It belongs to the government, it belongs to the people. Clyde said we should take the admiral up on spending some time with him. So I did that one offseason."

"That's an example of something that's not necessarily X's and O's but it's a form of leadership training or just working on you and if you're working on you, you're improving everything about you."

It was a message Hassel-

beck relayed to Luck after joining the Colts in 2013. But it was a hard sell to a young workout warrior with the pressure and expectations of a No. 1 draft pick.

While Luck enjoyed vacationing in Europe, where he spent part of his childhood reading books, following soccer and riding bikes, the desire to improve drove him to work out.

In time, Hasselbeck's message sank in.

"When we were first teammates, I told him there are going to be some years that are fun and they're easy and you're healthy the whole year," said Hasselbeck, who now works for ESPN. "There's going to be other years when it's miserable and you're dealing with something

the whole year and you're in the training room all the time. You're there early and you're there late and you're in pain and you're on drugs."

"That conversation came up when I was talking about how long I wanted to play. This year we were talking and Andrew said 'I remember you saying it and it didn't make sense then.' He said now it totally makes sense."

Luck's good year came with 16 starts for the first time since 2014, producing career highs in completions, attempts and completion percentage. He finished second to Patrick Mahomes in touchdown passes, helped the Colts end a three-year playoff drought and found a better balance between life and football.

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in the event are No. 2 Andrew Chung and Jimin Woo, No. 3 Robbie Schorr and Daniel Heo, No. 4 Jun Wang and Tania Tan, No. 5 Steven Goodwin and Eubin Park, No. 6 Sam Ryu and Jaehoon Son, and No. 7 Tommy Choi and Ji Eun Kwon. Chung and Woo, Schorr and Heo, and Hwang and Tudela got byes in tomorrow's first round, while the 26 other pairs will have their opening games this Saturday. Meanwhile, besides the mixed doubles event, the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association-sanctioned event will also have competitions in the boys U16, boys and girls U14 and U12, and boys U10 singles.

The boys U10 singles has

seven players with June Yu getting the top seed and a bye in the first round. Also on the list are No. 2 Riku Takahashi, June Lim, Ki Won Lee, Eun Been Hwang, Yutaka Kado-kura, and Lina Tsukagoshi. In the boys U12 singles, the Top 2 seeds are Juncheol Hwang and Ji Houn Lee and they will vie for the division title against Vladimir Van Der Maas, Wataru Kadokura, Kisuk Lee, and June Yu. The girls U12 singles also has six entries in No. 1 Savita Sikkel, No. 2 Irin Chung, Ji Eun Kwon, Hoo Wang, Anne Lee, and Dana Lee.

In the boys U14 singles, David Kwon, Anthony Gregoire, Eubin Park, Andrew Chung, and Cory Lee will play in a round-robin contest. The girls U14 has the same format with

Serin Chung, Helen Kim, Ye Jin Son, and Yebin Shin battling for the division tiara.

In the U16 singles, Maria Gregoire joins the boys club and will challenge the winner in the Gang Min Kim-Isaac Heo first round match on Sunday. Ryu and Woo are the Top 2 seeds in the division, which also has Jaehoon Son, Jun Wang, Andy Kim, Daniel Heo, Hyunmin Cho, and Eugene Park.

In the men's open singles, two female players—Tan and Malika Miyawaki—will test their mettle in the much competitive division. Woo, Schorr, Sean Lee, and Race are the seeded and favored players in the event, while Tony Kim, Gary Ramsey, Gerald Boyer, Tudela, and Allan Lee complete the field.

GCA

From Page 32

ond set of their title showdown yesterday. After the sun set midway through the second set of the finale last Wednesday, league officials were forced to postpone the game as there's still no power at the Ada Gym.

The game resumed at the 13-9 tally, in favor of the Geckos. However, SIS failed to hang on to the lead and extend the championship game when GCA mounted a comeback, tying the set at 23-all. The Eagles went on to steal the win and finish off their foes behind the two serves of senior Seung Jun Baek.

Moments before Baek dealt the killer blows to SIS' title aspirations, Jason Wang spearheaded GCA's furious

comeback by nailing six consecutive serves. Wang's solid performance from the serving area allowed GCA to overhaul a 16-21 deficit. Seemingly unfazed by the Geckos' lead, Wang willed his team back into contention and placed Baek in the perfect position to seal the deal for the Eagles.

Also helping GCA's cause were Joshua Pajarillaga and Steven Balakrishna, as they anchored the Eagles frontlines, showcasing their spiking prowess and making key defensive stops in the do-or-die game.

Though it was only his first year with the GCA high school team, Balakrishna played like a seasoned veteran from the opening whistle and his off and season-long efforts were duly rewarded when he won

the finals MVP.

"I was very surprised [to win the finals MVP]. During the summer break, it took me a lot of practice to develop my skill and chemistry with the team," the ninth grader said. "As a freshman, it was easy to get nervous during the game because I'm playing at such a young age and I didn't have experience in playing in high school."

For his part, Pajarillaga said suspending the second set of the match last Wednesday sort of worked to their advantage, as they were able to regroup after being down and recharge following a tough opening set.

"It was dark and we couldn't see much of the play or the ball. The stoppage also allowed us to refresh ourselves," Pajarillaga said.



# AJ Lizama, Bears lead SBL awardees

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Players and teams received the fruits of their labor in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Friday during a brief awards ceremony at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Chalan Kanoa Bears and their ace pitcher, A.J. Lizama, led the season awardees with the Henry Lizama Sr.-managed squad taking both the pennant and championship trophies awarded by SBL officials Rose Igitol, Tony Rogolifo, and Bernard Cabrera. A.J., on the other hand, brought home three individual awards plus a miniature trophy for their pennant win. The Bears top gun was the batting (.526 average) and RBI (27 RBIs) champion and also took the regular season most valuable player award.

One more Bears player earned an individual plum with



Franklin "Kiku" Lizama getting the most triples (5) in the double round-robin regular season.

Go See Mark's Peter Tomokane and Kelvin Kapileo, the Aces' Ben Jones Jr., Titanium's Brian Camacho, and the Blue Jays' Noel Cabrera completed the list of individual awardees.

Cabrera was the strikeout champion after fanning 52 batters, while Kapileo topped the ERA category with his 1.03. Jones had the most runs with 34, while Camacho led the league in home runs with three, and Tomokane recorded the most doubles in the season after posting eight.

There was no Finals MVP trophy given, as the supposed best-of-five title series between the Bears and GSM was canceled because the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield is unplayable after sustaining massive damage from Super Typhoon Yutu. The Bears won Game 1, 8-5, of the championship showdown last Oct. 21—the same week the category 5 typhoon hammered both Saipan and Tinian.

With the victory in the opener, league organizers and officials agreed to award the championship to the Bears, which finished the season (including the pair of semis games and Game 1 of the finals) with an impressive 20-1 record. The Bears' lone loss came at the hands of 2017 champion Aces, but after that defeat last March 9, the CK crew were unscathed the rest of the way, going 17-0 and then sweeping the Aces twice in the semis for a finals date with regular season No. 2 finisher GSM (14-4).



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Chalan Kanoa Bears players and officials pose with their trophies during the brief awards ceremony for the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Friday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Also in the photo are SBL officers Bernard Cabrera, second right, and Tony Rogolifo, right.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Strikeout champion Noel Cabrera of the Blue Jays is all smiles after getting his award.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Bears' A.J. Lizama holds his RBI and batting champion trophies.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Home run king Brian Camacho of the Titanium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Go See Mark representative, A.J. Murig, third left, shows the runner-up trophies and individual awards they won. Joining him in the photo are, from left, SBL president Rose Igitol and officials Bernard Cabrera, and Tony Rogolifo.





Davis in trade  
limbo: Harris,  
Barnes  
shipped out  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

MLB, union  
propose drastic  
rule changes  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Sweet sweep for GCA

By **ROBY N. PAMINTUAN**  
pamintuanroby@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

**G**race Christian Academy ended its title drought yesterday after a thrilling victory against Saipan International School in the boys high school finals of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Eagles persevered through the Geckos' formidable team effort and other challenges to earn a 25-20, 25-23 win and claim their first championship in the division after coming up empty for the past six seasons. The last time GCA won in the boys high school finals was during the 2011-2012 season and it was



ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Grace Christian Academy players and coach Cesar Libut, right, are all smiles after beating Saipan International School in the boys high school finals of the CCOPSA volleyball league yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

versus the Geckos, too. Mt. Carmel School, Marianas Baptist Academy, and SIS then led the way in the succeeding competitions until GCA broke the curse this year.



The Eagles did not only end a dry spell, but they also handed the school a sweep of the high school league (GCA last Wednesday won the girls division finals

over SIS), making yesterday's victory sweeter.

In the boys division, the Eagles and Geckos played only the remainder of the sec-

**See GCA on Page 30**

## 29 pairs to vie for mixed doubles title

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The 2019 White Coconut Tennis Classic will kick off this weekend at the American

Memorial Park courts with 29 pairs out to contest the title in the centerpiece mixed doubles event. No. 1 seed Vincent



Tudela and Juncheol Hwang lead the list of participants in the mixed-up doubles with the latter hoping to make it two in a

row in the division after winning last year's competition. Hwang paired with Jeff Race and they swept Ken Song and Isaac Heo in last season's finale, 7-5, 6-3.

Race will also play in this weekend's mixed doubles and he and Hoo Wang are also seeded (No. 8) in the division. Other seeded pairs

**See 29 on Page 30**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Helen Kim rushes toward the ball for a return to Irin Chung during their singles game in the SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament late last month at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts. Kim is among the junior players competing in the 2019 White Coconut Classic that will kick off this weekend.



ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Grace Christian Academy and finals MVP Steven Balakrishna, right, poses with Jasmine Phan, who received the same award during the closing ceremony for the CCOPSA volleyball league yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.